

WARNER HALL CEMETERY ASSESSMENT, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Chicora Research Contribution 593

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Funding Provided by the National Society of Washington Family Descendants, Inc.

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“I don't embrace excuses. I embrace solutions.”
— Jon Taffer

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The National Society of Washington Family Descendants, Inc., funded this study because they, along with Preservation Virginia (the successor organization to the Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities or APVA) are charged with the oversight of the cemetery's long-term preservation. The Society is committed to its preservation obligations and sought this assessment to guide its actions.

The field investigations were conducted on October 24-25, 2018. Report production followed immediately afterwards.

The study examines the Warner Hall Cemetery. The first graves dates to 1662, with the burial Mary Towneley Warner, the wife of Augustine Warner I. The last known burial was that of James J. McLanahan, the son-in-law of the plantation's owner, in 1831. The cemetery is contained within the boundaries of the Warner Hall National Register boundaries.

A cemetery assessment is designed to help the cemetery caregivers to think about long-range preservation in a structured way, to understand better what is significant and why, and how it should be managed in order to preserve its historical significance and ensure the cemetery's preservation for future generations. Issues of access, roads, security, landscape maintenance, and monuments are examined. Current conditions are detailed and recommendations are offered.

The Warner Hall Cemetery is unusual in that it was granted to the APVA in 1903, being transferred to their successor organization, Preservation Virginia, to the current property owners, Troy and Theresa Stavens in 2015. A preservation easement was maintained, under the oversight of Preservation Virginia and the National Society of Washington Family Descendants.

To assist in the management of this easement, Preservation Virginia was responsible for preparing and "storing permanently" a "baseline study" with photographs of the cemetery at its transfer. Regrettably, none of the parties seems today able to identify this baseline study or its photographs, only a few years later.

The Stavens have done an admirable job maintaining the cemetery. Nevertheless, the inability to recover the "baseline study" places all of the parties to the agreement at a disadvantage. We hope that the recommendations offered in this assessment will help make-up for this (apparent) loss.

Our historical overview of the cemetery reveals that the past care of the cemetery has been uneven and has never received the sort of documentation a significant historic site should receive:

- An enclosing wall was rebuilt, absent any archaeological investigations.
- A stile, originally incorporated in the wall was later removed, with a gate installed in the wall.
- The original tombs, including at least three table tombs, were replaced by low box tombs. The original materials were lost or discarded.
- There is evidence that the locations of the original tombs has been moved over time, likely to create family groupings or "clean-up" the appearance of the cemetery.
- The rebuilt tombs have at least once been rebuilt again, losing further historical data.

- One ledger was completely replaced by aesthetically and historically inappropriate granite.
- Repairs on the wall, rebuilt box tombs, and the ledgers have failed to follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards or any conservation philosophy.

As a result, the extant cemetery is but a vague representation of what it was originally. This does not imply that the site is no longer significant, but it does very clearly indicate that much better care is needed going forward than has been provided in the past.

Most importantly, we must learn from the mistakes committed by past generations of early preservationists and strive not to commit these same mistakes again.

We list and prioritize future actions in our report. Among these include the need for all of the involved parties to have a clear understanding of what preservation means; placement of appropriate regulatory signage; removal of several trees; periodic inspection visits by those responsible for the preservation easement; and conservation treatment of several stones (by a trained AIC-member conservator).

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Introduction

Warner Hall is a historic plantation in Gloucester County, Virginia established in 1642 by a grant to Augustine Warner I (1611 -1674). The earliest documented burial is that of Augustine's wife, Mary Towneley (1614-1662), in 1662.

Gloucester County is in eastern Virginia, adjacent to Mobjack Bay and approximately 20 miles north of the Newport News-Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Comprising about 257 square miles, it is the southernmost of the three Chesapeake Bay fronting counties of the "middle peninsula" and is entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

The Tax Map Number is 40-86B and the 29.96 acre parcel is owned by Warner Hall Properties, LLC, which acquired the tract in 2004 (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB995, pg. 95). The same family – Troy and Theresa Stavens – owns immediately surrounding parcels. The cemetery is situated about 430 feet southeast of the main Warner Hall house (now a bed and breakfast inn) on the northwest edge of a tributary of Northwest Branch of the tidal Severn River. The Severn River is itself a tributary of Mobjack Bay, an arm of Chesapeake Bay.

The cemetery is enclosed by a twentieth century brick wall measuring about 44 feet northwest-southeast by 40 feet southwest-northeast and contains 13 marked graves.

The plantation was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Encompassing 38 acres, the listing includes the cemetery. Nevertheless, the cemetery is not meaningfully discussed, or described, in the nomination. Significance focuses on "the Warners and the Lewises, . . . among the most prominent families in Colonial Virginia" (National Register nomination,

pg. 3). The monuments in the cemetery are mentioned only in the context of the individuals represented and their political or social influence. Although the site is identified as significant for its archaeology, there is no discussion of mortuary archaeology. Nor is there a discussion of the modifications of the cemetery that took place under the APVA, including the construction of the brick wall, the recarving of multiple monuments, or the replacement of one monument using modern granite.

The Project

In early 2018, we were contacted by Mr. Richard Weaver, President of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants, Inc. requesting information on a cemetery assessment of the Warner Hall cemetery. A proposal for the assessment was approved by August 2018, and the assessment was conducted on October 24 and 25, 2018. This report was prepared shortly thereafter at the Chicora offices in Columbia, South Carolina. The work included not only a careful inspection of the overall cemetery condition, but also very brief discussions with Troy Stavens at Warner Hall. The Society also completed our Cemetery Assessment Questionnaire.

This document may be viewed as a "comprehensive or master plan" as far as it is a long-range plan that provides a policy framework to guide preservation planning decisions. We view long-range as ideally five years, believing that after that length of time progress should be evaluated and needs of the cemetery re-assessed. This document is not, however, a business, financial, or fundraising plan, although each of those topics influences preservation.

Our preservation plans generally include



Figure 1. Portion of the Achilles 1983 USGS topographic map showing the vicinity of Warner Hall Cemetery on eastern Virginia's "Middle Peninsula."



Figure 2. 2015 aerial image showing the Warner Hall Cemetery.

issues of not only maintenance of the landscape, but also security, pedestrian and vehicular access, vandalism, and maintenance of the cemetery's hardscape. In the case of small, private cemeteries, such as this one, many of these topics are not entirely applicable and are not included. For example, as a small family cemetery on private

property, issues such as vehicular access are not relevant; the relative isolation and close proximity of the owners largely resolves typical security-related issues; and the landscape is minimal, requiring little more than the use of a trimmer. As a result, much of the assessment focuses on a review of critical conservation issues associated

with the monuments and brick enclosure.

We always explain to our clients that the mere presence of a plan does not guarantee improvement. This document is a “road-map” for preservation issues, but it is incumbent on the Society (and its partners, both present and future), as well as the property owners not simply to implement its recommendations, but to embrace them. This may be difficult; change is sometimes difficult and many of the recommendations we often provide focus on fundamental operational changes.

Often many of our recommendations require significant funding. That is, in general, not the case for the current assessment. Overall care is good, although much of the past efforts have been misplaced and have not served the goal of long-term preservation.

The Warner Hall Cemetery is very fortunate that its owners are committed to its care and preservation. The cemetery is also privileged to have an organization such as the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants, Inc. involved in its planning.

Why Preserve?

Preservationists may take the question “why preserve” for granted; yet it remains an important issue, especially in the current economic and political climate. It is useful to provide at least some brief discussion of why preservation of Warner Hall Cemetery is a worthwhile – even critical – goal.

Cemeteries are different from all other types of historic sites. Most fundamentally, they contain the physical remains of past generations and are considered sacred, consecrated ground. The right to a decent burial has long been recognized in common law. So too, is the duty to continue a cemetery once begun. Thus a community (inclusive of a family), by opening a cemetery, creates a duty through its descendants to execute the trust and maintain the cemetery.

Cemeteries are also artistic sites, such as a sculpture garden or outdoor museum, which contain a collection of three-dimensional artifacts. The monuments trace changes in both designs and social attitudes toward religious and moral views, death and eternity. They provide examples of the largely disappeared art of stone carving, illustrating numerous famous artisans. They are permanent collections, but must be considered finite and irreplaceable.

These collections are archives, having the same value and importance to the community as any archives. They are storehouses of genealogical information that often cannot be identified through any other means. They provide information concerning both the individual and collective pasts.

Sometimes it is thought that once a genealogical assemblage of the cemetery is collected and published, archival concerns have been fulfilled. This is incorrect. Few such compilations include detailed photographs and full transcriptions, including verses.

In addition, part of this archive is the archaeological and bioanthropological information the cemetery contains – even if the burials are never excavated. The graves and tombs can provide information on mortuary behavior, such as the coffins and hardware chosen by relatives. The human remains can provide information on diet, disease, and burial practices – information that is available from no other source.

Cemeteries are also scenic landscapes, similar to parks or open spaces, except they are much more. They are far more fragile and susceptible to damage and deterioration. As such, they require distinctly different care.

Thus, cemeteries are important social, historic, architectural, and archaeological artifacts. When there is little else physically remaining of a community’s earliest history, there will often be a cemetery that provides a unique tie to the community’s collective past that would otherwise be lost.

Preservation or Restoration?

Sadly, this topic is of special – even critical – concern to the caregivers of the Warner Hall Cemetery.

Preservation is *not* restoration. Restoration means, very simply, making something “like new.” Restoration implies dramatic changes of the historic fabric, including the elimination of fabric that does not “fit” the current “restoration plan.” Restoration is inherently destructive of patina and what makes a property historic in the first place. The “restorer” of a property too often knows little of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation and may care even less.

One of the most important early writings was that of nineteenth century art critic and observer John Ruskin. In *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* published in 1849 and in particular, “The Lamp of Memory,” Ruskin introduces us to the issue of trusteeship where he explains,

it is again no question of expediency or feeling whether we shall preserve the buildings of past times or not. *We have no right whatever to touch them.* They are not ours. They belong partly to those who built them, and partly to all the generations of mankind who are to follow us (Ruskin 1989:245)

Ruskin also crisply stated the difference between restoration and repair, noting that “restoration” means,

the most total destruction which a building can suffer: a destruction out of which no remnants can be gathered: a destruction accompanied with false description of the thing destroyed (Ruskin 1989:241).

In contrast, preservation (or conservation

for that matter) can be defined as preventing or delaying loss, depletion, waste, or harm. Preservation seeks to limit natural deterioration.

Preservation will respect the historic fabric, examine the variety of options available, and select those that pose the least potential threat to the property. Preservation (as well as conservation) will ensure complete documentation, whether it is of cleaning, painting, or repair. Preservation treatments will ensure that the work done today does not affect our ability to treat the object tomorrow.

Preservation Fundamentals

Preservation is not an especially difficult concept to grasp, although the key principles are not always clearly articulated. The fundamental concepts are well presented in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation (see Table 1).

This document reminds us – at least at a general level – of what caregivers need to be thinking about as they begin a cemetery preservation plan. Those responsible for the care of the Warner Hall Cemetery should be intimately familiar with the eight critical issues it outlines.

This is of special importance since the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

All other factors being equal, a cemetery should be used as a cemetery. Until the caregivers are able to do what needs to be done, it is their responsibility to make certain that the site is preserved – it must not be allowed to suffer damage under their watch.

Caregivers must work diligently to understand – and retain – the historic character of the cemetery. In other words, they must look at the cemetery with a new vision and ask themselves, “What gives this cemetery its unique, historical character?” Whatever it is, those undertaking its care and preservation become the guardians responsible for making certain those elements are protected and enhanced (whether they are

Table 1.
Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

particularly appealing to the caregivers or not).

Whatever conservation efforts are necessary must be done to the highest professional standards; these conservation efforts must be physically and visually compatible with the original materials; these conservation efforts must not seek to mislead the public into thinking that repairs are original work; and the conservation efforts must be documented for future generations. If the caregivers are not conservators, it is their responsibility as the stewards of the property to

retain a conservator appropriately trained and subscribing to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC).

The Secretary of the Interior reminds those responsible for the resources that each cemetery has evolved and represents different styles and forms. Few, if any, cemeteries are "frozen in time." It is the responsibility of caregivers to care for all of these modifications and not seek to create a "Disney-land" version of the cemetery, tearing out features that do not fit into their concept of what the cemetery "ought" to look like.

Likewise, caregivers are reminded that there will be designs, monuments, and other features that characterize the cemetery – and the caregivers are responsible for identifying these items and ensuring their

preservation. Caregivers must be circumspect in any modifications, ensuring that they are not destroying what they seek to protect (a problem with virtually all "restoration" efforts).

Before acting, those responsible for preservation are required as good and careful stewards to explore and evaluate the property, determining exactly what level of intervention – what level of conservation – what level of tree pruning – is actually necessary. In addition, where

it is necessary to introduce new materials – perhaps a pathway – into the cemetery, they must do their best to make certain these new elements are not only absolutely necessary, but also match the old elements in composition, design, color, and texture.

Where conservation treatments are necessary, the Secretary of the Interior tells stewards that they must be the gentlest possible. However phrased – less is more – think smart, not strong – caregivers have an obligation to make certain that no harm comes to the resource while under their care. Again, one of the easiest ways to comply is to make certain that caregivers retain a conservator subscribing to the ethics and standards of the American Institute for Conservation.

Finally, the caregivers must also recognize that the cemetery is not just a collection of monuments and the associated landscape – the cemetery is also an archaeological resource. They must be constantly thinking about how their efforts – whether to repair a monument, put in a parking lot, or resurface a path – will affect the archaeological resources – archaeological resources that are the remains of people buried at the cemetery by their loved ones.

This assessment takes a very conservative stance. “Restoration” is virtually always unacceptable and the cemetery today – with its fabricated wall, inappropriate gate, vastly altered tombs, and even a replacement of one ledger – clearly reveals that many of the past actions at this cemetery have been destructive to the historic fabric. Some have dramatically altered the character of the cemetery. All document the damage that “restoration” has done in the past. Although it could be argued that these past actions, while not appropriate today, were common to preservation efforts in the past. We must demure on that assessment. The Warner Hall Cemetery could just as easily – and far more economically – been fenced and preserved with no modifications.

Attention to the Secretary of Interior

Standards for Preservation is even more critical today since the 1980 listing of the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places.

Brief History of the Plantation

The first Warner, Augustine Warner I, was the great, great grandfather of George Washington. As previously mentioned, the original 600 acres (sometimes called a headright) was granted in 1642 at the head of Severn River (originally the tract was called “Austin’s Desire”) (Brown and Harpole 2004:3). The property was passed to Augustine Warner II (1642–1681). Lacking surviving male children, the property was passed to Elizabeth, the third daughter of Augustine Warner II, who married John Lewis in the early 1690s. The property was passed to their son, John Lewis II (1702–1754). In 1740, a fire destroyed the original seventeenth century Warner home, but the Lewis family rebuilt their residence on the same foundations.

The property remained in the Lewis family until the 1830s when it was sold out of the family to Thomas Tenant, a U.S. Congressman from Baltimore. Brown and Harpole (2004:19) report that Tenant’s daughter, Eliza, and her husband, James McLanahan, lived at the plantation prior to its 1834 sale to Colin Clarke of Richmond. While owned by the Clarke’s, the center section of the rebuilt home again burned, leaving only the east and west brick dependencies and out buildings. The property apparently remained in the Clarke family until 1892, although it was offered for sale in 1886. At the time it was described as containing, “a LARGE MANSION, out-buildings, kitchen, dairy, ice-house, and stables – all of brick; also, a large frame barn and other buildings for employees” (*Richmond Dispatch*, September 21, 1886, pg. 4).

By 1898, it was purchased by A.W. Withers (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 22, pg. 291) and in 1903, was sold by Withers to Maynard Cheney of Cincinnati (Brown and Harpole 2004:25). Interestingly, Withers never lived at Warner Hall, but apparently acquired the property

to ensure the preservation of the site (Remarks by Phillip W. Hamilton, Jr., October 15, 2002, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities President's Council Meeting). Apparently, the Cheneys built the present wood-framed Colonial Revival mansion presumably on the original foundation and of the same floor plan as the Lewis house. Never profitable after the Civil War, the property passed to the Burroughs, then between 1910 and 1946 to William J. Selleck. By 1946, it was acquired by J.S. Crockett and in 1949, yet another fire hit the plantation, this time destroying the kitchen (Brown and Harpole 2004:29). In 1954, Bolling R. Powell, Jr., a Washington, D.C. attorney, acquired the plantation. Powell held the property until 2000, when the current owners, Troy and Theresa Stavens, obtained it (Brown and Harpole 2004:31).

During this torturous history, the plantation cemetery was largely ignored until the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) acquired it about 1903. The history of the cemetery will be briefly discussed in the following section.

Brief History of the Cemetery

In an effort to document what is known of the cemetery, we contacted a variety of organizations and agencies. These include: Preservation Virginia, The Inn at Warner Hall, the Gloucester Community Foundation, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, NPS Colonial National Historical Park, Dr. Michael Frost of the Lewis Family Descendants, Data Investigations, Richmond *Times Dispatch*, the Library of Virginia, the Valentine Museum Archives, and of course the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Most, although not all, responded and were happy to provide the assistance they could.

Sadly, far less is known of the cemetery and its history than is known about the plantation.

In addition, this assessment was not tasked with the completion of a detailed history and these few findings will simply provide some general information.

The earliest marked grave is that of Augustine's wife, Mary Towneley (1614-1662), in 1662. However, while the cemetery dates from at least that time, we do not seem to have information regarding whether it was enclosed or if any of the deeds or wills set aside the graveyard.

The earliest published account of the cemetery we have identified is the 1894 transcription of twelve graves located at Warner Hall at the time (Tyler 1894:226-229). These 13 graves included (dates are based on the monument, regardless of other historic documentation):

Augustine Warner (1611-1674)
Mary Warner (1614-1662)
Augustine Warner (1642-1681)
Augustine Warner (1666/7-1686/7)
John Lewis (1669-1725)
Elizabeth Lewis (1672-1719/20)
Caroline [Lewis] Barrett (1783-1811)
Warner Lewis (1767-1791)
Mary Lewis (1748-1776)
Thomas Clayton (-1739)
Juliana Clayton (1731-1734)
Isabella Clayton [no dates]
James J. McLanahan (1791-1831).

This information is rather important, since it suggests that at the end of the nineteenth century (Tyler fails to note when these inscriptions were recorded) the tomb of Mildred Reade Warner was either not present or was already too damaged to be legible.¹

It also clearly indicates that the tomb of James McLanahan was considered part of the Warner Hall burial ground.²

¹ Mildred Reade Warner was the daughter of George Reade, Esq. and Elizabeth Reade. She married Augustine Warner II sometime prior to 1666/7.

² There are multiple accounts of the McLanahan association with Warner Hall. One is that McLanahan, not being a Warner (or Lewis) was "dug up" and moved

Beyond these observations – and the early recording of transcriptions by an individual with a penchant for accuracy – we must wait until 1903 for our next account. The local media announced that the APVA “accepted from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Withers, of Gloucester county, the gift of the ‘Warner Hall’ burying ground” (*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, June 14, 1903, pg. 6).

Also in 1903, we learn, “the old burial ground at Warner Hall has been presented to the Society [APVA]” (Withers 1905:53). The deed for the transfer is dated April 7, 1903 and covered,

that certain lot or parcel of land, a part of the Warner Hall Estate, containing about one fourth of an acre of land and known as the “Warner Hall grave yard” to be held by the said Association for the purposes and objects herein above set forth and for no other, with a right of way incident thereto to the nearest public road. Should at any time the said association fail or neglect to care for said grave yard in suitable manner, then the said lot is to revert to the grantors [A.W. Withers and Katherine P. Withers] in this deed (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 26, pg. 227).

The vagueness of this transfer would cause problems in later years. At the time, however, the focus was to protect the cemetery and it was explained, “Mr. John Bryan, of Richmond, is going to put a substantial inclosure [sic] around it” (Withers 1905:53).

outside the wall. Another is that McLanahan purchased the property and intended to be buried in the cemetery in order to be buried in “polite society,” but the wall was built after his death (1831) and he was therefore excluded (Gray 1936:46-47). James J. McLanahan (1791-1831) was the son of John McLanahan and Elizabeth Johnston of Franklin, Pennsylvania. He married Eliza

Although tantalizingly vague, the report continues to note, “the tombs are in an excellent state of preservation, having been repaired in a most thorough manner by a former owner of Warner Hall.” Given the time period, this “thorough manner” likely involved the use of Portland cement – which was “all the rage” at the time.

The transfer was made just months prior to Withers disposing of the Warner Hall property to M.A. Cheney in July 1903 (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 26, pg. 411).

Another news article reports that the cemetery was “overgrown with churchyard weeds and exposed to the trampling of cattle” – explaining the early interest in erecting a fence (*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, June 28, 1903, pg. 14). It goes on to document 13 graves. Included is the “utterly obliterated” monument today ascribed to Mildred Reade Warner, but not included is the monument identified by Tyler as that of Warner Lewis.

Inscriptions are largely identical, although the news account reports that the Mary Warner stone includes an “epitaph which is indecipherable” except for the last line, reported to be “Here lyeth entombed the phoenix of her time” (*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, June 28, 1903, pg. 14). In addition, we learn that the Elizabeth Lewis stone reportedly spelled Warner, “Warnor.”

The article also reports that the tombs are “covered with a stone slab resting on stone sides and a stone head and foot about 18 inches high.” Did the reported misidentify brick for stone – perhaps because of still well preserved stucco? Or since that time did the stone box tombs collapse

Tenant in 1818 (*Columbia Centinel*, Baltimore, Massachusetts, September 16, 1818). Tenant was the daughter of Thomas Tenant and Mary Waters. Thomas was a wealthy merchant who acquired Warner Hall in 1830). Both James and Eliza were living at Warner Hall, suggesting that many of the stories are less than accurate.

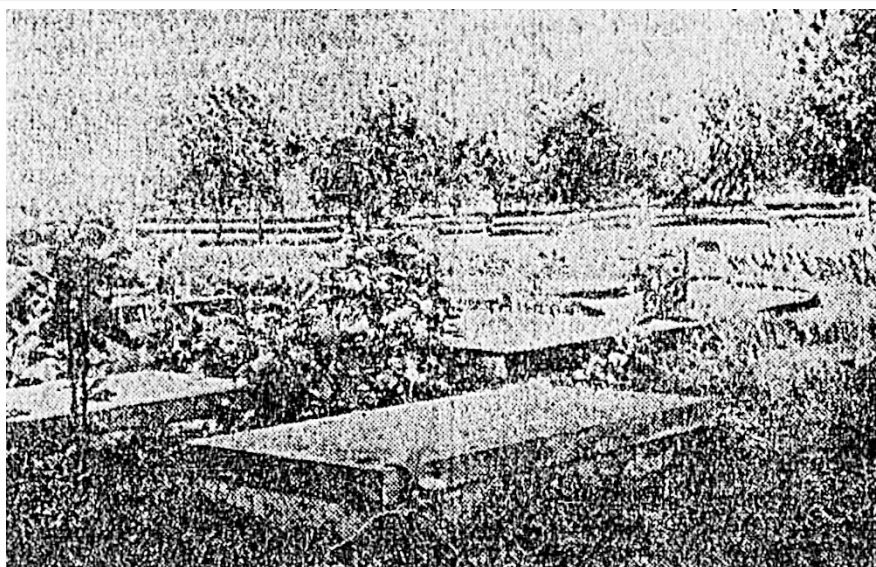


Figure 3. Early cemetery photographs. At the top is the cemetery in 1903 (*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, June 28, 1903, pg. 14). Below is a photograph identified only as “early twentieth century photo” (likely 1907-1908)(Preservation Virginia).

and were they replaced by easier to build brick? There is a photograph associated with the article, although its poor quality provides few clues (Figure 3). There is another photograph that, while undated, is likely only slightly more recent, perhaps 1907 or 1908, taken as the APVA began its cleanup of the cemetery.

The 1903 photograph clearly reveals that there was no fence surrounding the graveyard and that it was overtaken by weeds. An effort to identify the original photograph was unsuccessful. But if it surfaces, it might be possible to determine if the tombs were stuccoed at the time and the relative location of the tombs would be of great importance.

In 1906, the cemetery remained without a fence, “so that animals roam at will through it” (*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, July 21, 1906, pg. 5).

By 1908, we learn that the wire fence had been built by “Mr. Joseph Bryan, of Eagle Point” (Withers 1908:58). About all we can learn regarding Joseph Bryan is that he was a major donor and his wife, Isobel, was the president of the APVA between 1889 and 1910. In 1880, Joseph Bryan was an attorney.

In addition, the 1908 report also noted that the “inscriptions

require re-cutting” and this would be dealt with the following year.

The slightly later photograph shows a variety of women working to clean the cemetery. By that time, a simple wire fence had been erected

to keep livestock out of the cemetery. Of special interest is that sitting on the low box at the front left of the photograph is the remains of a table leg – providing yet additional evidence that at least some of the ledgers were originally table tombs. What became of this remnant is unknown.

The photograph also shows, we believe, the tomb of Juliana Clayton at the far right. This is based on the recurved edges, the thickness of the ledger, and the central break. If this is correct, then the photograph was most likely taken looking to the northeast and the clump of vegetation in the background on the left is likely the Warner Hall stable.

This placement, however, makes it difficult to reconcile the location of tombs in this 1903 photograph with their locations today. Behind the posited Juliana Clayton ledger is the corner of the Thomas Clayton tomb. To the left are four very distinct tombs. The one in the left foreground (with the leg fragment) is slightly skewed (and none is today).

A detailed analysis of positions reveals only one obvious conclusion. Since the date of this photograph and about 1935, the locations of tombs have shifted, been realigned, and in some cases even moved, likely to create the family groupings seen today.

The next APVA report is from 1924, when it was reported that after the [wire] fence was put up by Joseph Bryan, nothing more was done “to keep it clear of weeds, tree, etc.” and that while most of the stones were thought to be in “good condition,” two were “illegible” and the issue of recutting was again brought up (Anonymous 1924:71-72).

In 1926, the Association complained they had hoped the Warner and Lewis families would be more forthcoming with donations to “finance the restoration of the stones,” but that only \$40 had been raised. The group also complained of the expense of keeping up the cemetery, explaining that “labor is two dollars a day” (Anonymous

1926:78). In addition, the fence required repair.

During the period from 1928 through 1930, the Joseph Bryan Memorial Branch in Gloucester County reported they were focused on rebuilding the recently discovered brick wall (Talliaferro 1931:71).

A 1931 news article reported that the first fence was of wire and goes on to explain,

The original foundations of the wall were discovered by the Joseph Bryan Branch [of the APVA] during a recent inspection of the property. The present plan is to rebuild a replica of the ancient wall on these foundations. It is expected to complete the work before the Yorktown Sesquicentennial, so that the historic cemetery can be shown to the thousands of visitors to the scene of the Revolution’s end (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, June 21, 1931, pg. 2; June 26, 1931, pg. 2).

This was further explained by noting the old foundation was found “when raking,” and “for two years and more the main work of the [chapter] has been given to the wall” at a cost of \$533 (Talliaferro 1934:80).

The wall was, in fact, constructed and was ready for dedication by October 20, 1932 (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, October 16, 1932, pg. 24; October 19, 1932, pg. 3).

The article reporting on the dedication also reported the complete epitaph for the Mary Warner stone,

Here lyes entombed ye Phoenix of
her tyme,
Whose rare virties – yet we
cannot say.
The dead ye Phoenix never dyes

away (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, October 22, 1932, pg. 5).

Much later in time we learn that the bricks for the rebuilt wall were salvaged from the stable of the Botetourt Hotel in Gloucester (*Daily Press*, Newport News, October 1, 1950, pg. 47).

We know that there are additional reports dealing with “Warner Hall” in the 1951-1959 *Year Books*, but we have not been able to review these.

There was a photograph, dating from 1935 that shows a small portion of the cemetery (Figure 4). Of particular interest in the ledger in the lower right, today identified as Mildred Reade Warner. Although the inscription is not visible, it reveals that by the first quarter of the twentieth century this monument was present and poses the question of why it was not identified by Tyler only about 40 years earlier. It also appears that the ledger is marble, not limestone, suggesting a more recent placement than the surrounding low brick box tombs.

The wall is clearly visible and appears in almost new condition. Beyond the wall, looking to the southwest is open field with a number of relatively young trees and a clear view of the marsh. A fence is present along the edge of the marsh.

During the period of the 1930s and 1940s, news accounts reveal that the cemetery was a feature on the yearly garden tours in the area (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, February 10, 1947, pg. 3). This suggests that there may be additional photographs of the cemetery held by local families.

In 1953, it was apparently proposed that



Figure 4. Warner Hall Cemetery in 1935 (Mildred Warner-Washington National Monument Collection, 1934-1937: File No. 0-32, Colonial National Historic Park, Yorktown).

“an entrance to the [grave]yard . . . [be] constructed so that one might drive directly to the wall and enter the hallowed spit to read the marvelously preserved inscriptions on the ancient tombs” (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, May 1, 1953, pg. 12). While we have found no evidence that this was done, the article does suggest that by the 1950s the recarving of various inscriptions had been completed.

There is another photograph of the cemetery in 1954. While a car is in the background, there is no evidence of a road. Also in the background are cattle, clearly indicating that the farm continued as a ranch. The interior of the cemetery is overgrown with weeds, suggesting that care was not exactly routine. The photograph, taken looking to the north, clearly shows the Mildred Reade Warner stone. While perhaps not intact, it does appear to be present.

Cropped differently, this same photo reappeared in 1960 for the review of a book on cemetery epitaphs (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, January 31, 1960, pg. 46). This book is of interest since it provides yet another transcription of the cemetery’s monuments. For example, it provides the epitaph for James J. McLanahan that is not

found elsewhere,

His worth could not be properly appreciated but by those who were most nearly connected with him" (Swem 1959:97).

Also in 1960, the Daughters of American Colonists (DAC) placed a bronze plaque on the cemetery's west interior wall to honor Mildred Warner, the grandmother of George Washington (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, October 14, 1960, pg. 34). About 65 persons (Figure 6) attended the event.

By the 1960s there was also apparently a problem brewing between APVA and the property owner Bolling Powell, Jr. over access to the property. There is little documentation, but it has been suggested that Bolling was allowing access only for maintenance and not visitation and that he was attempting to force the APVA to fence the easement from the road to the cemetery (email from Troy and Theresa Stavens to Members of the Mildred Read Warner Email Group, April 19, 2012). This found its way to the Circuit Court of Gloucester County that, in June 1967, established the physical boundaries of the cemetery and its 50-foot buffer according to a March 5, 1966 plat by J.K. Sinclair (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 142, pg. 435). Also settled was the location of the easement established by the 1903 deed, running from the north side of the cemetery northeastwardly to Warner Hall Road. While the APVA desired a 40-foot easement, the court determined that the 12-foot easement shown on the plat was sufficient. In addition, the court in 1967 ordered that,

The gate at Route 629 and shown on the aforesaid plat of survey shall be padlocked and closed except when in use for purposes of ingress and egress by Bolling R. Powell, Jr., his agents, employees and workmen, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, its members, agents, employees and

workmen, and the guests of its members, each of the aforesaid parties to keep and retain a key to said padlock, with the further provision that a foot stile may be erected by the plaintiff at the gate for purposes of ingress and egress by members of the association and its invitees (Gloucester County Common Law Order Book 17, pg. 173).

Two additional photographs of the cemetery have been identified from 1979, in anticipation of the National Register nomination in 1980. Taken looking to the north and south, they are of particular interest since they show the ledgers and brick bases with good clarity. In addition, and of even more interest, they reveal that the replacement wall, erected in 1931, incorporated a brick stile – not a gate. This strongly suggests that as the remnant wall was exposed, not only was there no opening, but there may have been a massive brick foundation in the corner, interior and exterior, marking the location of the stile.

The presence of a stile also makes very good sense. It is a typical colonial feature and would have ensured the protection of the monuments from roaming cattle far better than a mere gate.

In 2002, perhaps associated with the research at Warner Hall by Brown and Harpole (2004), there was apparently an investigation of the geologic origin of the limestone ledgers in the cemetery (Nichols 2002).

This report found that the Warner family graves used medium to dark gray massive limestone. The one exception was the posited stone of Mildred Reade Warner, which was found to be a grayish-tan sandstone. The report commented that at that time, the fragments were no longer in the cemetery, but had been moved to the barn of John and Marsha Gillis of Ware Neck, Gloucester. Nichols cautiously commented, "since the inscriptions on



Figure 5. Warner Hall Cemetery in 1954, looking to the west
(*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, April 27, 1954, pg. 14).

these pieces are not legible, and not in place, the date [ascribed to the grave], 1694, may be in doubt" (Nichols 2002:3). In contrast, all of the Lewis and Clayton family graves used a marble that varied from white to light gray.

Nichols made another observation; all of the stones of close relatives (such as husband and wife) presented similar lithogy [sic] and characteristic.

Nichols suggested that the limestone might be the "black limestone" originating in England. This seems reasonable given the very early dates. The sandstone might represent the Aquia Creek sandstone (Nichols 2002:6). This

seems reasonable since that quarry opened in 1694 – the posited date of the stone – and perhaps represents the first time local source material was available to the wealthy. Moreover, over time it was recognized that this material fared very poorly when exposed to the weather.

The marble presented more of a challenge. Nichols suggests that it may be Dorset "Portland Stone" or "Purbeck Marble." These sources are not unreasonable since the marble he identifies is of a poor grade in terms of cemetery architecture.

Close examination of the photographs (now several generation old photocopies) show breaks in the Augustine Warner (1642-1681) ledger, and revealing the patches present at that time.

Nichols returned to the cemetery in 2004 to conduct additional investigations, including probing for below ground remains and the excavation of small shovel tests to explore various anomalies (Nichols 2004). The report is particularly insightful, providing the best assessment of the cemetery available to that time. His findings confirm that the existing wall is built on top of the historic wall, separated by a 3 to 4 inch thick pad of Portland cement that extended on both sides of the original wall. The original wall consisted of only two courses (and in at least one location only rubble), indicating that it had been very effectively robbed. It also calls into question how it was found "raking." Moreover, there was too little of the original wall remaining to do more than indicate a location. Therefore, all other features of the extant wall are mere conjecture.

Nichols also reported that the existing wall had been constructed of a variety of different bricks. He reports that one source reported the bricks came not only from the old stable (mentioned previously), but also from "Belle Ville,"

an old jail at the courthouse, Goshen plantation, and possibly Petsworth Church. Our guess is that no one source provided sufficient brick and as a result, multiple locations contributed to the rebuilding effort.

He also noted that the northeast side and east corner exhibited more variation than elsewhere and concludes this may be the result of multiple repair efforts in this area. This conclusion was supported by his documentation of multiple cracks, as well as the outward bowing of the wall – a condition that is still extant today.

Nichol's shovel test 7, in the north interior corner of the surround wall, did identify in situ bricks. Whether these represent the original or replacement stile was not addressed (Nichols may not have recognized that a stile existed).

Another very important finding was the recovery of a variety of stone fragments, as well as the examination of the McLanahan remains outside the wall. At least three of the monuments (we suspect more) were originally table tombs, including the McLanahan marker. It now seems that when the McLanahan marker was removed to the Abingdon churchyard, where it is now, only the top slab was moved, leaving behind the other parts of the monument. Today, the most obvious remaining part is that of the original marble base slab, with at least one corner, showing the inset for a square support.

Nichols made a critical conclusion worth repeating,

There are few components of the graveyard that are original except for the stone tablets and some of these may have been moved from an original site elsewhere. The brick tablet bases and brick wall have been rebuilt or restored possibly several times. . . . What is viewed in the graveyard today are

remnants of the original graveyard (Nichols 2004:18).

The next photograph we have identified is from 2007, showing the Mildred Reade Warner stone as either missing or certainly nothing more than rubble. Just a few years later, in a 2012 tax assessor photograph the box appears to have been rebuilt and the remnants of the sandstone ledger set in some type of mortar. We assume that this marble ledger is what was left or found of the ledger shown in the 1935 photograph. This seems confirmed,

the Gloucester Preservation Foundation (GPF) with our full knowledge and support, spent substantial funds to arrange for the Mildred Reade Warner grave base to be completely rebuilt (by a most well respected restoration mason), ³ and the original partially disintegrating grave tablet placed within the grave base so that it will be preserved for posterity. This work was done this year in preparation for the recent installation of a new grave tablet by the Washington Family Society [presumably the National Society of Washington Family Descendants] (letter from Louis J. Malon, Preservation Virginia, to David Addison, November 19, 2012).

The day after the tax assessor's photograph was made, the Mildred Reade Warner tomb was again "restored," this time with the entire box replaced and a new, massive granite ledger set in place. The original fragments are today apparently below the granite, set in an unidentified mortar.

It is unfortunate that the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants commented

3 This was apparently Jack Peet Masonry of

Williamsburg, Virginia.

in their assessment questionnaire that they have no information regarding past activities at the burial ground.

We have been told that at some point, a ground penetration radar (GPR) study was conducted at this cemetery and we were told that Dr. Michael Frost, with the Lewis Family Descendants, likely conducted this work. When contacted, Dr. Frost explained that “no unidentified graves in the empty part of the enclosed cemetery” and “no unidentified graves outside the wall of the wall of the cemetery were identified” (email from Dr. Michael Frost to Dr. Michael Trinkley, November 1, 2018). The absence of anomalies, of course, does not conclusively preclude the possibility of additional burials.

In October 2009, the Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America placed small, flush-to-ground granite markers at the foot of the Augustine Warner I and II monuments at Warner Hall.

The next documentation we have received dates from 2011, when the Lewis Family Descendants were expressing their interest in replacing various marble Lewis monuments with new granite ledgers (letter from Michael D. Frost, Lewis Family Descendants to John Gillis, October 3, 2011). While we have yet to determine anything further regarding this, it is fortunate that the historic ledgers were not replaced, as this would significantly degrade the cemetery and its historical significance.

By 2012, the 1903 deed was again an issue of contention. The attorney for the Stavens, Breckenridge Ingles, advised the parties that it appeared the successor in title, should it be found that the APVA was not adequately maintaining the property, were the Stavens, as the current owner of Warner Hall (email from Breckenridge Ingles to Preservation Virginia and the Gloucester Preservation Foundation, June 13, 2012).

Several months later, the friction between the owners of Warner Hall, Troy and Theresa

Stavens, and the Gloucester Preservation Foundation (GPF) reached a boiling point with GPF demanding that the Stavens cease trespassing on the cemetery property and suspend their landscape maintenance (which was being performed without cost to PV or GPF). In addition, the Stavens complained that GPF was undertaking maintenance activities in a fashion that interfered with their operation of the Inn at Warner Hall (email from Warner Hall to Preservation Virginia, August 9, 2012).

It was during this period that Preservation Virginia, seeing its mission shift from management of local sites to a broader statewide preservation effort, sought to divest itself of the Warner Hall Cemetery. It appears that the choice of the GPF as new owner and caretaker raised considerable opposition (letter from Preservation Virginia to David Addison, Esq. dated November 19, 2012).

By January 2015, Preservation Virginia chose to gift the cemetery to the Stavens, doing business as Warner Hall Properties, LLC. (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 915, pg. 53). Apparently either rejecting the contention of the Stavens’ attorney that they would have reversionary interest, or perhaps to simply be safe, Preservation Virginia obtained quitclaim from all of the living descendants of the Withers family (who originally donated the cemetery to the APVA).

This transfer included detailed preservation covenants (enforceable by the National Society of Washington Family Descendants and/or Preservation Virginia) and a declaration of easement. These documents established the rights and responsibilities of the various parties. A “baseline report” was prepared showing the cemetery on January 21, 2015, to document the condition on that date. The preservation covenant required that the cemetery “be maintained, preserved, and protected in this documented state as nearly as practicable.”

Maintenance obligations were formally shifted to the grantees, with the provision that

“substantial repair” might be funded by the previously established endowment. There are provisions to require “like workmanship” and that structural modifications be avoided without approval by the grantor.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify a copy of this “baseline report” at Preservation Virginia, with the Stavens, or at the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Thus, no one associated with the cemetery has any ability to document prior

authorized users and uses, limited vehicular access, and the right to erect signage. In particular, the agreement notes that signage might include “such rules and regulations for the use of the Easements, including the hours that access to the Cemetery Property is permitted . . .”

Following this gift to the Stavens, they prepared a deed of consolidation, combining Warner Hall and the cemetery into a single parcel of land (Gloucester County Register of Deeds, DB 915, pg. 71).



Figure 6. Dedication of the tablet for Mildred Warner. The individuals are (l to r) Mrs. J. Hopkins Davis, regent of the Pocahontas Chapter, DAC; Mildred Warner Lewis of Pineville, West Virginia; the Rev. J. Martin Diggs of Mathews; and the Rev. Howard Mueller, rector of Abingdon Episcopal Church (*Daily Press*, Newport News, VA, October 16, 1960, pg. 53).

conditions or compare those prior conditions to conditions today. While the Stavens are clearly good and conscientious owners, the two organizations that have established themselves as “guardians” of the protective easement, have absolutely no documentation to prove conditions. How such an unfortunate situation could have occurred is not clear.

The associated declaration of easement further affirmed the 1967 court order, defined

Thus, although there is much we don’t know about the burial ground, we have been able to document that the wall, while rebuilt on an earlier (date unknown) foundation, is nevertheless “modern” in the sense that it was constructed in the early twentieth century in a style and design that was thought “fitting” for the site. Similarly, we have documented the near certainty that multiple stones were re-cut. At least one ledger has been significantly altered, with the loss of what may be a late nineteenth or perhaps even early twentieth century marble ledger and its replacement with a very heavy and clumsy granite version. None of the inscriptions provides any clue as to the original inscription or even that the individuals represented by this new granite marker were ever in the cemetery.

We recommend extensive additional research in an effort to gather the various records relating to this cemetery. Further research should be devoted to the identification of other records associated with the APVA. This will include examination of the remaining *Year Books*, as well as the files of organizations such as Preservation Virginia and the National Park Service. Future archaeological investigations could profitably examine the foundation of the cemetery wall, seeking to identify what is original, as well as possibly to date its first construction. Further documentary research may assist in helping to better understand the history of the posited Mildred Reade Warner monument.



Figure 7. Photographs of the cemetery in the early 2000s. The upper photo is reported to date from 2007 (from Find-A-Grave). The lower photo is time stamped 2012 (from the Gloucester County Tax Assessor).

An effort should be made to collect documents relating to the cemetery, such as the examination of the stone material and the GPR study. These various studies should be housed at a repository, such as the Virginia State Library, where they are available to other researchers. As it

is currently, they are of no use to the professional community.

The Cemetery Location, Setting, and Context

As previously explained, Gloucester County is located in the southeastern portion of Virginia's Middle Peninsula. The county is bounded on the south by the York River, the north by the Piankatank River and the east by Mobjack Bay.

Gloucester County's industries have traditionally been associated with the abundant natural resources found in the area. With its advantageous location in the geographic center of the Eastern Seaboard, the county has experienced an increased diversification in manufacturing activities.

Gloucester County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State, demonstrating an annual growth of 6.4% in the 1980's. It is the most populous county of the Middle Peninsula with a 2000 population of 34,780 persons. The County's proximity to urban centers to the south and the westward migration of suburban development from the greater Hampton Roads/Newport News area has transformed portions of the County to a suburban development pattern which is most pronounced at the southern reaches of the County. Metropolitan residents to the south are lured to the County by the promise of lower taxes, lower housing costs, rural character, and relative freedom from the congestion evident in the counties nearer to Newport News/Hampton Roads. This has created

increased traffic volumes on highways not designed for such heavy use. Gloucester County has established a “Growth Management Philosophy” outlined as a “contained growth” strategy in the County’s Comprehensive Plan to manage the future form, pattern, quantities, and distribution of growth in Gloucester County

wildlife habitat, to reduce hazards from flood, hurricane, and fire, to protect wetlands, and to preserve large contiguous areas of open space and forests. It therefore serves to limit major development (clustering is encouraged to achieve the district’s intent) and protects the rural character of the area.

The cemetery is situated in a rural area of Gloucester County, about 5.5 miles south-southeast of Gloucester and 1.5 miles west of the small community of Naxera. The cemetery is about 0.2 mile from the entrance to the Warner Hall

Census Tract 1004 encompasses 34.58 square miles and the cemetery is nearly the center point (Figure 8). About two-thirds of the tract is land area, while the remainder include wetlands and water. As discussed below, this Census Tract is

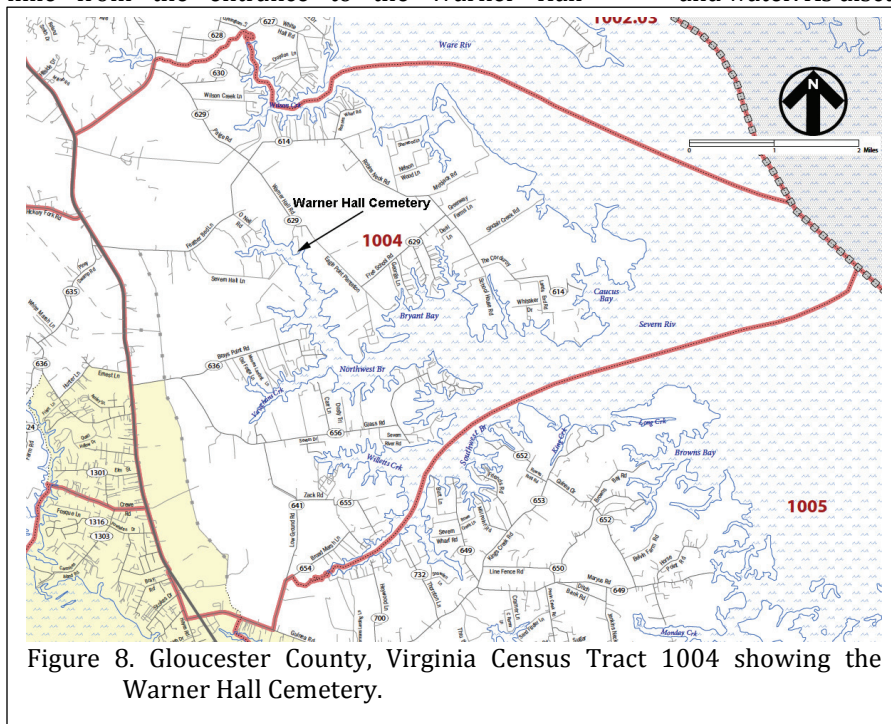


Figure 8. Gloucester County, Virginia Census Tract 1004 showing the Warner Hall Cemetery.

particularly susceptible to flooding and hurricane surge. The total population is 1,344 people. Minorities comprise an insignificant proportion of the white dominated tract, with only 27 Hispanics and 99 African Americans. Countywide, whites comprise nearly 88% of the total population. The population is also nearly evenly divided between males and females. Nearly 83% of the population is over the age of 18 years and nearly a third of the residents are between the ages of 45 and 59. An additional 20% of the residents are 60 years or older. About 10% of the population of Census Tract 1004 has an ambulatory

property, and the driving distance is about 0.22 mile.

disability.

The road accessing the site, Warner Hall Road (Virginia State Route 629), is a paved, two-lane running southeast from Robins Neck Road (Virginia State Route 614) and terminating at Bryant Bay off Severn River.

This area of Gloucester County is zoned RC-2. This classification is intended to preserve prime agricultural soils, to protect watersheds and

There are 571 households and over 70% of these are families. There are 680 housing units in the tract, about 84% of which are occupied. Renters occupy only 14% of the residences and their median rent is \$1,024. The median value of these owner-occupied housing units for the county is \$225,100; in Census Tract 1004, it is \$195,600. About 60% of the Census Tract’s housing was constructed between 1950 and 1980. Over 86% of

the population has moved into the tract since 1980.

The most recent statistics reveal only 21 unemployed individuals in the county, representing an unemployment rate of about 3%. Median family income in 2010 for Census Tract 1004 was \$85,387; the per capita income varies from \$28,732 for whites to \$17,577 for African Americans.

About 85% of the population 25 and over has a high school education or higher and nearly 20% has a bachelor's degree or higher.

While the economy was previously based on agriculture, in 2016 no workers were identified as agricultural; about a quarter are classified as working in educational services, health care, and social assistance. An additional 18% are employed in professional, scientific, and management services. The retail trade contributes another 17% of the employment. Over 86% have health care insurance.

What this suggests is that those living around the cemetery are most likely white, middle-age, relatively well educated, stable, with small households, and better than average incomes. Thus, while the neighborhoods surrounding the cemetery are not especially ethnically diverse, they are older, stable, and educated. These factors are likely to support preservation efforts.

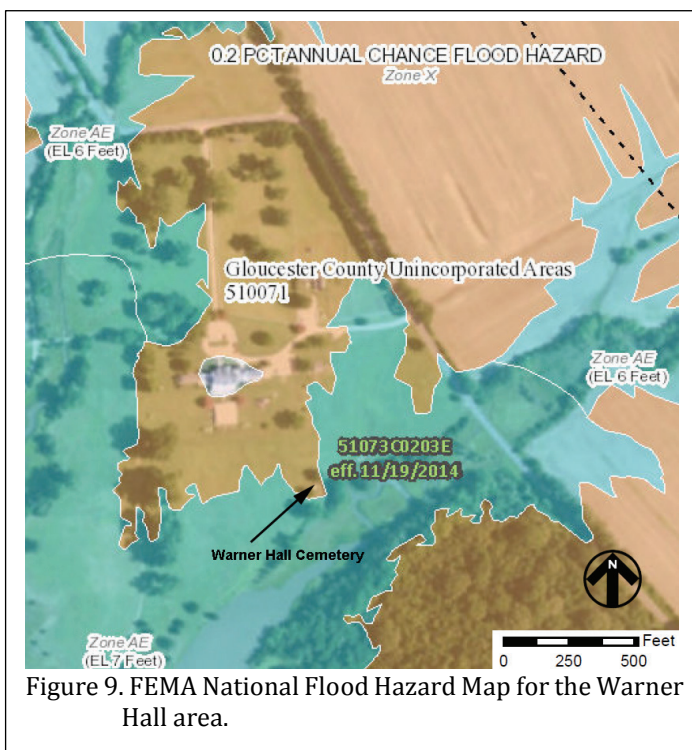
Gloucester County, typical of many rural communities, tends to have a low crime rate. Violent crime is estimated at 98 per 100,000 (the Virginia rate is 218 and the national rate is 386). While low, it is troubling that violent crime in the county increased by 60% between 2006-2008 and 2013-2015. The property crime rate, which tends to be of greater significance in cemetery preservation, is about 832 per 100,000 (compared to 1,859 for Virginia and 2,451 for the United States). Nevertheless, this rate has also increased between 2006-2008 and 2013-2015, based on a 2016 analysis by the Virginia Criminal Justice

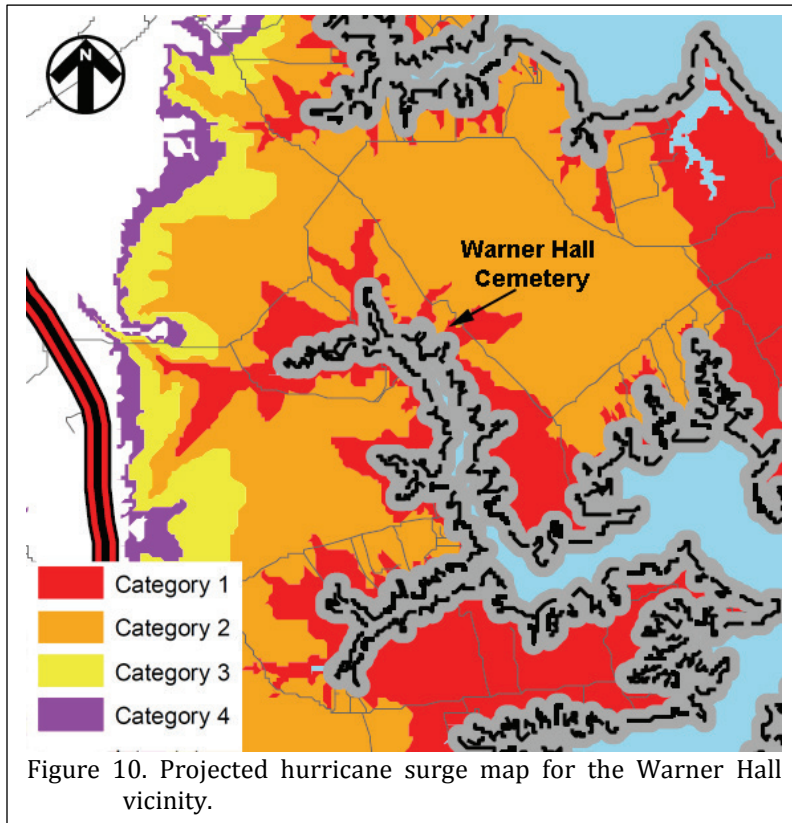
Research Center. The Sheriff's Department indicates that over the past 6 months, there have been no incidents within a mile of the cemetery. The closest, just beyond a mile, have occurred in the Brays Point area.

The 2015 Point in Time count of the homeless in Gloucester County identified 37 homeless individuals, 17 of whom were not sheltered. Nearby York County, however, identified 525 homeless with 28 not sheltered. Thus, while not a significant issue in terms of cemetery preservation, it reveals that there is a potential for issues.

Factors Affecting the Landscape Character

Gloucester County, within the Middle Peninsula, lies entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The elevation of the county ranges from about sea level to 140 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The immediate area of the Warner Hall





Cemetery is about 7 feet AMSL with a gradual slope toward the marsh slough to the east.

Unconsolidated beds that dip gently seaward and rest upon consolidated bedrock, either Triassic sandstones and shales or granitic rocks, underlie the area. The unconsolidated sediments are of Cretaceous, Paleocene, Eocene, Miocene and Pleistocene age, and consist of a series of alternating sand, clay and marl beds (Cederstrom 1968:10). While having no real bearing on the Warner Hall Cemetery, it is nevertheless useful in the context of archaeological studies, to note that much of the county's artesian water is brackish and even their municipal water supply today contains appreciable chloride levels (Cederstrom 1968:6).

Near Warner Hall, the geologic units consisted of Poquoson and Lynnhaven members, generally undifferentiated. The former are medium to coarse, pebbly sand grading into clayey fine sand

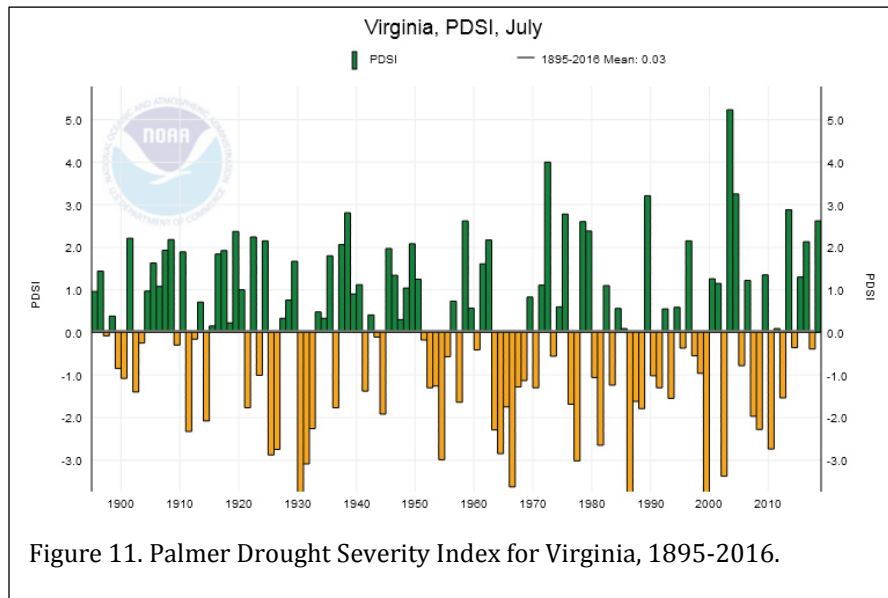
and silt that underlies ridge and swale topography. The Lynnhaven members are generally similar, although they may be locally underlain by a medium to coarse cross-bedded sand and clayey silt containing abundant plant material (Johnson 1976).

Here, as elsewhere on the coast, sea level rise is of considerable concern. Estimates for predicted rates of sea level rise in the Chesapeake Bay region are between 2.3 and 5.2 feet by 2100. These levels would totally envelope the Warner Hall Cemetery. This is not entirely due to climate change and increased glacial melting. Gloucester County and the Hampton Roads region is known to be sinking, or subsiding, due to a variety of processes including groundwater withdrawal, isostatic rebound, and long-term settling of the region resulting from the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater. A recent NOAA assessment reveals that

approximately \$187,005,000 to \$249,451,000 worth of infrastructure and wetland function will be impacted and/or lost by sea level rise. While there is a concern regarding these consequences, there is also an unwillingness to increase debt or taxes – resulting in an untenable long-term situation (Virginia Sea Grant 2013).

Only one soil is identified in the cemetery – Dogue fine sandy loam. This series consists of moderately well drained soils that formed in loamy and clayey sediments of marine origin. The Ap horizon, about 0.9 foot in depth, consists of a dark brown (10YR4/3) fine sand loam that overlies a B21t horizon to a depth of about 1.3 foot. This horizon is a yellowish brown (10YR5/6) clay loam. The B22t horizon extends to about 2 feet and is a yellowish brown (10YR5/6) heavy clay loam. To a depth of 3 feet the B23t horizon is a similar yellowish brown (10YR5/6) heavy clay loam

INTRODUCTION



(Newhouse et al. 1980:37). High water may be encountered 2-3 feet below the surface.

Beyond the cemetery, to the west, are Sulfaquents. These soils are nearly level and are poorly to very poorly drained. They are mainly along areas of saltwater at an elevation slightly above sea level and are flooded daily by tidal water.

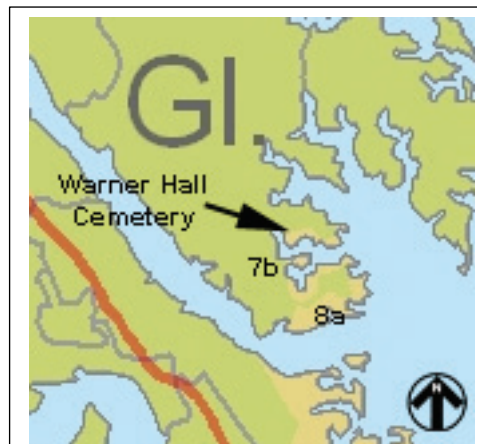
Figure 9 reveals that the cemetery is immediately adjacent to the 100-year flood zone (Zone AE) and both the cemetery and much of the historic settlement is within the 500-year flood zone (Zone X). While once thought relatively safe, recent events have shown that 500-year magnitude floods are occurring more frequently. Nevertheless, even a 100-year flood would eliminate access to Warner Hall along Warner Hall Road to both the northwest and southeast, isolating the property for the duration of the flood and until the road was repaired.

Figure 10 also reveals that the cemetery might be impacted by even a Category 1 surge, but would certainly be subject to flooding by stronger hurricane surges. As with the FEMA flood projections, any significant surge is likely to eliminate access to the property, making recovery more difficult.

Gloucester County has a mixed humid environment. The summers are hot and muggy, the winters are very cold and windy, and it is wet and partly cloudy year round. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 33°F to 88°F, but is rarely below 21°F or above 95°F. However, the area is humid most of the time; the lowest average, of 64%, occurs in April, while the highest, 92%, occurs in November. Air exchanges are less frequent in the summer and maritime tropical air can persist in the region for relatively long periods – giving rise to very warm, humid days.

Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year and has historically been adequate for all crops. There are 73 precipitation days and the area typically receives 45 inches of rainfall (and over 7 inches of snow).

Figure 11, however, reveals that Virginia exhibits considerable potential for drought,



although recently rainfall has been above average.

The area has an average growing season of about 250 days, although this will vary by specific location, with low areas often evidencing late frosts. Figure 12 shows that the vicinity of Warner Hall is on the edge of the 8a/7b zone. Zone 8a typically has minimum temperatures between 10 and 15°F. Since this “new” planting zone map was released, the zones have shifted even further northward, potentially placing the higher elevations of Warner Hall Cemetery in Zone 8b. This is an area where hot climate grasses, such as centipede, bermuda, and zoysia are typically successful.

There are a variety of high risk weather events, including hurricanes, winter ice storms, and tornadoes – all classified as “Critical Hazards” to the Middle Peninsula.

A factor affecting not only the landscape but also stone preservation is the level of pollutants. Based on monitoring in the region, the annual mean of NO_x is 0.36 ppm and the annual mean of SO₂ is 0.097 ppm. These levels result in significant levels of acid rain with pH levels reaching about 4.7. While the EPA identifies 50 generators of hazardous material in the county, they tend to be clustered in the northern sections and along US 17. There is none within a mile of the Warner Hall Cemetery.

This review reveals that the cemetery faces a variety of natural and man-made environmental factors, all of which have the potential to impact monuments, the cemetery hardscape (such as roads) and the cemetery vegetation. Long-term preservation involves balancing all of these concerns.

The only way for cemetery caregivers to deal with all of these potential events is to develop a detailed cemetery disaster plan. Just as museums, libraries, archives, and businesses must have plans to deal with floods, loss of electrical power, hurricanes, and weather events, cemeteries too must be ready to respond when there is a

significant event – either weather-related or caused by humans.

Chicora Foundation has developed a detailed manual to assist cemeteries in disaster planning, but it is critical that the Warner Hall caregivers take the threat seriously and conduct the planning in order to respond in an effective and timely manner.

Recommendations

- A meeting of the property owners and other stakeholders should be devoted to a careful review of the Secretary of Interior Standards. The caregivers should focus on a fuller understanding of how daily operations affect the long-term preservation of the cemetery, making necessary adjustments to current policies and procedures. At that meeting, this assessment could be further explored.
- There is insufficient historic understanding of the cemetery. Historic research should focus on the development of the cemetery and the documentation of various activities.
- The cemetery should prepare a disaster plan to cover events such as flooding, tornadoes, windstorms, and similar events.

INTRODUCTION

Administrative Issues

The Warner Hall burial ground is situated on private property and is not an operating cemetery. Thus, it does not fall under the purview of Virginia's Cemetery Board (Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation), which regulates only for-profit cemeteries that offer perpetual care services or pre-need burial contracts, and that are required to maintain trust fund accounts (even family cemeteries are exempt if plots are not sold). Nevertheless, Virginia does have laws protecting historic burial grounds, including Code of Virginia, Title 57, Chapter 3, Cemeteries and Title 18.2, Chapter 5, Trespass to Realty.

Virginia Cemetery Laws

Nothing in these discussions is offered as legal advice.

Virginia offers protection to unmarked graves. Displacing human remains is a Class 4 felony under Virginia law (§18.2-126). Conviction is punishable by two to ten years in prison and up to \$100,000 in fines. This law applies to all human burials, whether prehistoric, historic, or modern.

In addition, the willful or malicious damage to cemeteries is also against the law. It is punishable by one to five years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines (§18.2-127). This includes damage or desecration of gravestones, cemetery fences, sculptures/monuments, or other burial ornaments.

Virginia also provides access to burial grounds (§57-27.1). Generally, owners are required to allow access to cemeteries on private property for the purpose of visitation by family members/descendants and for genealogical research. Such visitors, however, must give

reasonable notice and abide by any restrictions the landowner may place upon frequency, hours, and duration of access.

The county circuit court may also be petitioned by descendants who feel a cemetery has fallen into neglect, seeking permission to access the property and maintain the cemetery (§57-39.1). Heirs and descendants also have the legal right to petition the Court for permission to relocate their ancestors' remains from an abandoned family cemetery (§57-38.2).

This should always be considered the last option since it is intrusive, destroys the historic context, and is very expensive. Those determining to remove grave are required to file a bill in equity with the county circuit court for permission (§57-36, §57-38.1, §57-38.2, and §57-39). This petition will require (1) a good faith effort to identify and contact the families or descendants of the persons interred and (2) publication of a notice of intent in a local newspaper. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the party seeking removal will be responsible for all costs incurred during the disinterment and relocation process.

A professional archaeologist should remove remains, since only they have the expertise to ensure that the remains are fully and completely identified and removed, along with all coffin hardware and other artifacts. This requires a permit from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (§10.1-2305).

In Virginia, it is also possible that at some point a previous owner of the cemetery placed a reservation of rights on a family cemetery. This means that an owner reserved the right to access and maintain the cemetery at some point in the past on a deed or document of deed transfer. Since

such reservations can be dropped in deeds, it becomes essential to search back as far as possible. We do not know if this has been done; moreover, Gloucester County has suffered major losses to its records several times in history.

Owners, therefore, are obligated to leave the burials alone and not damage or desecrate gravestones, cemetery fencing, monuments, etc. As previously explained, Virginia law protects all cemeteries from willful and malicious damage, whether by the property owner or by others (§18.2-127). Owners may maintain the cemetery if they desire or allow descendants or other parties to do so. Owners, again as previously discussed, are required to allow access to the cemetery for visitation by family members or descendants and others who wish to conduct genealogical research (§57-27.1). Owners are further required to create an access easement to the cemetery.

It should be noted that a cemetery may also be considered a historic site if they meet, or are likely to meet, the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Warner Hall Cemetery is within the boundaries of the National Historic Register property and thus has previously been determined to be a historic site.

Finally, Virginia is one of the very few states that also permits the disbursement of funds through the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) for the maintenance of Revolutionary War graves (§10.1-2211.1). However, only those Revolutionary War graves and cemeteries listed in the statute are eligible to receive annual appropriations.

For whatever reason, the Warner Hall Cemetery was not included. It would therefore require legislative action to permit such funding. In addition, funds must also be appropriated each year in the budget bill. Currently, annual appropriations for grave and cemetery care are set at \$5 per grave – so for a small cemetery such as Warner Hall, this is likely not an especially useful funding source.

Modifications

In the past, many modifications have been made to the cemetery. From a preservation perspective, such modifications are rarely appropriate and should usually be discouraged or prevented.

For example, the placement of a granite ledger on a monument that historically had a marble marker is inappropriate. However well intended, it changes the appearance of the cemetery. In addition, we have yet to identify any firm and clear evidence that the marker is correctly attributed. Finally, we can find no record of what was done with the earlier marble marker fragments (although we have been told that they were covered by the replacement stone – a situation that now cannot be verified. A new stone should never replace the original (new markers can be placed flush to the ground so as not to alter the three-dimensional appearance of the cemetery).

As another example, the placement of a bronze plaque on the cemetery wall is inappropriate. It damages – even defaces – the wall and introduces new fabric into the historic setting. Granted, the wall dates to the twentieth century, but today it is well over 50 years in age and has achieved a historic status of its own. Placing the marker outside the wall on a standing post would have been acceptable.

The current preservation covenant does establish some parameters on future modifications, prohibiting them from being, “materially altered, replaced, restored, renovated, extended, or increase or decreased in height. . . except in a way that would be in keeping with the historic and architectural character of the property, consistent with the Secretary’s Standards and compliant with resource protection area requirements and historic district ordinances of the County.” Any change requires approval by the Grantor.

Roads and Pedestrian Issues

Access

The 1967 court defined easement, 12-feet in width, provides vehicular access to the cemetery. This access, entirely grassed and only occasionally used, is not obvious (i.e., there is not a dedicated, obvious roadway from this point to the cemetery) except for a gate on Warner Hall Road, about 0.25 mile southeast of the main plantation entrance and about 0.05 mile southeast of the owner's driveway. There is a farm gate and sign at this entrance (Figure 13). It also passes over a low slough that is occasionally wet; this may hinder some vehicular traffic.



Figure 13. View of the easement entrance in 2012, after the destruction of the pedestrian stile (never replaced) and damage to the gate.

Readers will recall that there was a point in the history of the cemetery where the APVA desired to create a road and parking area. It is

fortunate this was not done since it would dramatically change the character of the cemetery and site surroundings.

This access point, prior to about 2008, also included a foot stile that allowed pedestrians to use the easement for access. An accident about that time destroyed the foot stile, which has never been replaced. Nevertheless, the current farm gate does allow relatively easy pedestrian access.

Pedestrian access should be defined and should prevent vehicular access. It seems unlikely that this easement, given its grassed nature and distance, will ever be suitable for use the handicapped. Thus, we do not believe that the access point need be designed for use by wheelchairs or mobile scooters. The typical access distance for pedestrians is 27 inches. This should also significantly reduce the potential that motorcycles will be able to access the route. While a stile may be sufficient, a more permanent and effective device (assuming that cattle will not be placed in the field) is the lockable bollard. Bollards may be placed as a single line or staggered. The benefit of bollards over a stile is that if they are lockable, they can eliminate the need for a gate.

Nevertheless, there is not room for parking more than one or two vehicles at this entrance. The walk from this entrance to the cemetery is about 525 feet.

Most visitors arrive by way of the main Warner Hall entrance, walking from the main house (about 400 feet). The fields are mown and at

the time of this assessment, there was a very closely mown 10-foot side path that is easy to follow and walk. In addition, the cemetery (or house) is always in sight, so there is no chance of visitors becoming disoriented or lost. The walk is level and should pose little or no problem to ambulatory visitors.

Given the relatively low visitation, there is ample parking at the front of the Warner Hall. It is also likely that the field could be used for parking in the case of special events. The Stavens have previously expressed a willingness to assist with parking for larger events, as well as providing vehicular or golf cart access to those who may have special needs or disabilities.

Pedestrian Pathways

No pedestrian pathways are present, nor are any needed given both the small size of the cemetery, the low visitation, and the absence of such pathways historically.

Grass within the cemetery was closely cut at the time of the assessment, so it was easy to walk through. We identified no animal borrows or other problems that would pose a hazard to pedestrians.

This is not to say that grass is a good medium for those with disabilities. Nevertheless, it is a compromise between all of the factors that should be considered.

Universal Access

Many who visit cemeteries are elderly and therefore impairments associated with older age should particularly be taken into consideration, especially when cemeteries are amenities for tourism as in the case of Warner Hall Cemetery. In addition, while it is not always possible to make a natural landscape fully accessible, partial access is better than none at all.

While the gravel parking at Warner Hall is not ideal for wheelchairs or walkers, it should be manageable. Likewise, there is a ramp to the left of the main house providing access inside. While

there are no steep grades in the landscape, the grass walkway will be extremely difficult and dangerous for many people with disabilities to use (grass is a less than ideal surface for wheelchairs and others with mobility or sight disabilities). The gate opening at the cemetery might also preclude access to some larger wheelchairs, although it should be accessible to walkers and most wheelchairs.

As previously mentioned, the owners have previously expressed a willingness to assist visitors with a golf cart or other conveyance.

We do not recommend the installation of pathways at this time. They would be expensive and would impact the view shed. Any future modifications should explore accessibility issues in an effort to maximize access by all visitors.

Recommendations

- The current access point should have a mechanism to control pedestrian access and eliminate inappropriate vehicular access (including motorcycles, dirt bikes, and vehicles). Thus, if a gate is to continue to be used, it must be locked. Pedestrian access such as bollards can be removable and positioned to function as both a gate and to allow pedestrian access.
- All future modifications at Warner Hall Cemetery should be evaluated for their impact on universal access. Although universal access is not a legal requirement, it should be a goal whenever possible.

Cemetery Security

Vandalism

The questionnaire for this assessment revealed that the National Society of Washington Family Descendants was unaware of vandalism at the cemetery. Nevertheless, the Stavens observed that after the foot stile was damaged and the access gate stopped being locked, “we have noticed an increase in delinquent behavior at the Graveyard (most late night underage teenagers fueled by alcohol or acting on a dare).” They also report vehicles entering through the gate. These events seem to have culminated in an incident on Easter Sunday, 2012, when

A light blue pick up truck [was seen] hurtling across the field (it had entered from the easement area) moving at a dangerous speed The truck headed directly for the cemetery wall, (which we honestly thought the truck was going to smash through). We ran out of the house to confront the driver, but before we could reach the vehicles, the truck backed up abruptly, spun around the field and roared back out to the road (email from Troy and Theresa Stavens to Members of the Mildred Read Warner Email Group, April 19, 2012).

Clearly, there have been incidents and such incidents can occur again in the future. Virtually all cemeteries are occasionally plagued by vandalism. Much of that, as the Stavens recognized, is fueled by alcohol.

There are relatively few studies of the

causes of vandalism. Those that exist present a broad range of possible reasons, including poverty, unemployment, disintegration of family life, and availability of drugs and alcohol. Other studies include problems inherent in single-family homes and parents that fail to guide their children in social and moral issues. Even the judicial system itself is thought to contribute to the problem by failing to deal more harshly with offenders (see, for example, de Wet 2004).

Unfortunately, cemetery specific vandalism has not been studied and we must rely on studies largely focused on school vandalism to understand the phenomenon (although we have no assurance that the two can be reasonably related). Most school vandals are typically young (junior high school), male, and act in small groups. Participating in vandalism often helps a youth to maintain or enhance his or her status among peers. They have typically done poorly academically and have little or no understanding of how their behavior affects others. They are not, however, any more likely to be emotionally disturbed than their peers who do not commit vandalism. Those who commit vandalism are not likely to be judged harshly by their peers. Youth who lack fulltime parental supervision during after-school hours are more likely to commit vandalism.

Approaches

Changes to the Physical Environment

Control access to deter unauthorized entry

The Cemetery boundary is permeable, but two primary access points (to the Inn and the Stavens residence) are highly visible. The third

access point – the legal easement to the cemetery – should be modified to discourage unauthorized access. This includes locking the gate or replacing it entirely with removable bollards that will prohibit vehicular entry, but allow pedestrian access.

Post Regulatory Signage

Access-control signs are an important part of "rule setting" in that they establish the types of activities prohibited in the Cemetery. As discussed in the following section entitled "Other Maintenance Issues," the Cemetery requires regulatory signage. These signs need to be installed at the easement entrance and at the cemetery itself.

Repair damage quickly and maintain the appearance of the Cemetery

Clean, well-maintained cemeteries free of debris, free of evidence of past vandalism, and with attractively landscaped grounds are less at risk for vandalism. Consistent maintenance may serve as an "occupation proxy," giving the appearance that the cemetery is under steady surveillance by those concerned about keeping it safe. Conversely, cemeteries with much trash, evidence of damage, or poorly maintained grounds give the appearance of abandonment; if no one in society cares for the property, why should the prospective vandal? Simply put, the appearance of abandonment breeds additional damage and vandalism. This is not an immediate concern at Warner Hall, where the care is excellent, but similar care should be exercised at the easement entrance.

Offender-Focused Responses

Increase the Frequency of Police Patrols

Increasing the frequency with which police patrol the cemetery increases the likelihood that potential vandals will be seen. Driving down Warner Hall Road to observe any vehicles sitting at the easement entrance and ensuring the gate is shut is valuable.

Hold Offenders Accountable

Very few perpetrators of cemetery vandalism are identified and apprehended, and even fewer are prosecuted. Courts are generally lenient with offenders, and in most cases, the damage from an individual incident is seen as minor and does not appear to warrant harsh penalties. However, creative and well-publicized interventions to hold offenders accountable can have both a specific and a general deterrence effect. Restitution programs include a set of administrative and legal procedures to get money from offenders to pay for repair or replacement of damaged property. Publicizing the results of these efforts is important to maintain their deterrent effect.

The owners and stakeholders should ensure that the police department investigates vandalism and works to secure an arrest. If an arrest is made, representatives should be present in court, testify concerning the impact – and cost – of the damage, and ask for the maximum punishment possible. If no restitution is required by the court, the owners and stakeholders should consider civil court action to recover costs associated with professional repair of the damage.

Management Practices

Maintain an Inventory of Cemetery Stones and Their Condition

Vandalism often goes unreported because cemetery caregivers do not know what is present in the cemetery or its condition. This is far less likely at a small cemetery such as Warner Hall. Nevertheless, just as the 2015 baseline survey documented conditions, this current assessment offers an important update.

The stakeholders (National Society of Washington Family Descendants and Preservation Virginia) are unfortunately distant from the cemetery and this makes it difficult for them routinely to monitor its condition. Nevertheless, at least once a year (more often, if possible) a representa-

tive of one or the other organization should visit the cemetery to appraise the current situation. There should be a written record of this visit, maintained with other important organizational files.

should begin using a form to identify and record evidence of vandalism.

Vandalism Records

We recommend that the stakeholders, in conjunction with the owners, develop a form designed for the reporting of cemetery-specific vandalism (Figure 14 offers one such example).

This form should include information such as what was damaged, with specific information concerning each stone, including the name and lot/plot; how the stone was damaged (toppled, broken into how many fragments, scratched, etc.); where is the stone now (was the broken stone gathered up for storage, if so, where is it stored); an estimate of when the damage occurred, including the last time the stone was known to be undamaged; an estimate – from a conservator – of the extent of the damage and cost for repair; a photograph of the damaged stone; when police were notified; when police responded and took a report, with a copy of the report attached; and the outcome of the police investigation.

Recommendations

- The vehicular and pedestrian access at the Warner Hall Road easement should be maintained. The gate, if used, should be located. Some form of pedestrian control should also be installed.
- Regulatory signage must be erected, both at the easement entrance and at the cemetery.
- The stakeholders (the National Society of Washington Family Descendants and Preservation Virginia) should ensure that they visit – and document – the cemetery on minimally a yearly basis.
- The cemetery owners and stakeholders

Cemetery Fixtures and Furnishings

The reconstructed brick wall is the only “fixture” present at the Warner Hall Cemetery. The absence of such items as benches, vases, and other ornamentation is entirely in keeping with domestic homestead graveyards. These are seen throughout the Eastern Seaboard during the colonial and antebellum periods. They continue, in a somewhat different form, into this century (Sloane 1991).

Cemetery Wall

The cemetery wall is slightly rectangular, measuring 44.3 feet in length on the northeast and southwest sides and 39.8 feet wide on the northwest and southeast sides. It has what may be described as half-arches at the corners.

This size and orientation may be the result of the wall fitting existing graves or, alternatively, the graves finding placement within an existing wall. Without further examination of the archaeology and, in particular, a visual, petrographic, and chemical examination of the original wall bricks and/or the discovery of a will, probate papers, or account records associated with its construction, we will likely never know.

The wall is level, but because of ground slope, varies in height from about 4.2 feet along the east side and only 3.2 feet on the west side (above ground level). The corners are about 1.8 feet higher than the main wall segments.

The wall has a ground-level water table of angled or splay stretchers of molded brick. Above it, common brick laid in four courses of stretchers topped by a row of headers, above this a two-part cap consisting of a projecting band of stretchers, topped by saddle coping of molded brick. At the corner, the inner third of the band on each face

risers at a 45° angle, with the area between the band and the header row filled by a mix of headers, stretchers, and wire-cut angled brick pieces.

The wall is relatively consistent in thickness, being about 13-inches from the water table down, 8 to 9-inches in the middle, and with a 10-inch coping. Thus, the base of the wall likely has a wythe of a brick and a half, while the central portion is a single brick in wythe. The 8-9-inch wall is laid in American common bond, with stretcher courses from the water table up, capped with a single course of headers.

All of the mortar we examined was very hard, suggestive of a masonry mortar with an abundant Portland cement component. Some evidence of brick spalling was identified – consistent with soft historic brick laid with hard modern mortar.

Brief History

We have previously provided historical details associated with this wall. Readers will recall that it was absent from the earliest photograph in 1903, indicating that it had been lost by at least the turn of the twentieth century. Below grade, remnants of the wall were reportedly found the APVA by 1928 and there was a push to raise funds to rebuild this wall. This was accomplished and the wall dedicated in October 1932. There is a 1935 photograph showing this wall newly constructed.

This first was constructed with a brick stile, as revealed in a 1979 photograph. At some point after that time, the stile was removed and an entrance created in the wall with a very lightweight gate installed.

In 2004, we are fortunate to have

additional details provided by Nichols. He found that the existing wall, at least where he examined, was built on top of the original wall, separated by a pad of Portland cement. He opines that there was no previous wall, based on very extensive probing and the failure to find additional in situ remains.

Nichols also reports that what was left of the original wall consisted of, at most, two courses, and in some areas only rubble was found. This is consistent with a brick wall that was intentionally removed, or robbed. Generally, you see this level of removal only when the brick is being salvaged for some other function. Otherwise, removal simply takes the brick down to the ground surface. Thus, we can speculate that the wall was lost at some point in Warner Hall's history when additional brick were needed. There were multiple fires and rebuilding episodes, any one of which may be responsible.

Nichols also provides some oral history that the brick for the extant wall came from a variety of local sources. We have been able to verify at least one of these sources – stables associated with the Botetourt Hotel in Gloucester. He believes that multiple sources were used, based on the variety of brick seen in the wall. We are less certain. Any single kiln producing brick during the colonial or early antebellum will exhibit considerable variation in both brick sizes and firing characteristics.

Nichols also points to a variety of repairs evident in the wall. In particular, he identified cracks and bowing on the northeast wall. He attributes at least some of this damage to ground water.

Current Conditions

The wall has changed little since described by Nichols in 2004.

The bow along the northeast wall is apparent and there remain multiple open cracks. However, at least for now the wall appears stable.

There is much evidence for the repair of

previous cracks. Some of these repairs are clearly visible, providing evidence that no effort has been taken to match mortar texture or color. Other repairs are visible because the pointing is so poorly done that it spreads over the brick, creating unnaturally wide and distracting mortar joints.

It appears that an effort was made to use a ruled joint. This technique was extensively used during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and was formed by running a thin-bladed jointer along the center of the bed and perpend joints, usually flushed, guided by a feather-edge or rule to ensure the joint would be level and plumb (see, for example, Lynch 1994:2:134). In some areas, the joints were well done; in many others, they were very poorly executed without skill or care.

The wall also evidences a uniform coat of lichen that is aesthetically distracting and which will erode the mortar over time.

Considerations

The most fundamental concern is that while a wall existed, there seems to be no information on when it was constructed or what it looked like. Thus, the reconstruction that has been used is, other than its size and location, entirely conjectural. The creation of "Disney-land" versions of historic sites and features is a poor preservation approach. With so little of the original wall left (and found only below grade), it is exceedingly unlikely there was even evidence to document how the joints were struck.

A second issue is the use of relatively hard mortar with salvaged historic brick. This combination was certain to cause problems – as it has – later.

A third issue is that the construction appears to have precluded considerable potential for archaeological investigation. The excavation to create a footing destroyed archaeological evidence that might help reveal when the wall was built and when it was removed. This is a very significant loss for the site, especially since it was occasioned only for the sake of aggrandizing the cemetery. A simple



Figure 15. Cemetery wall. Top photo shows the design of the wall, looking southeast. Lower photo shows a section of the northeast wall interior. The arrows note a poor job pointing a crack and also how the joints have been improperly struck.

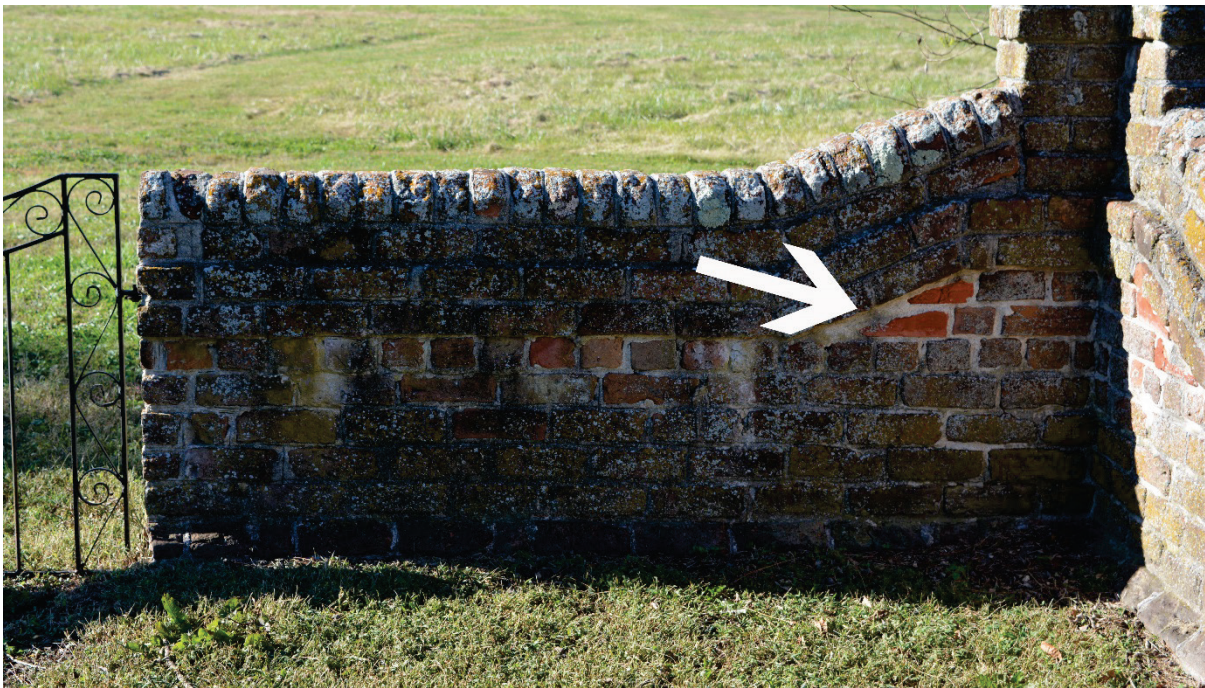


Figure 16. Cemetery wall. The upper photo shows an existing, open crack as well as a brick spalling as a result of the very hard mortar. The lower photo shows a poor match of both mortar and replacement bricks.

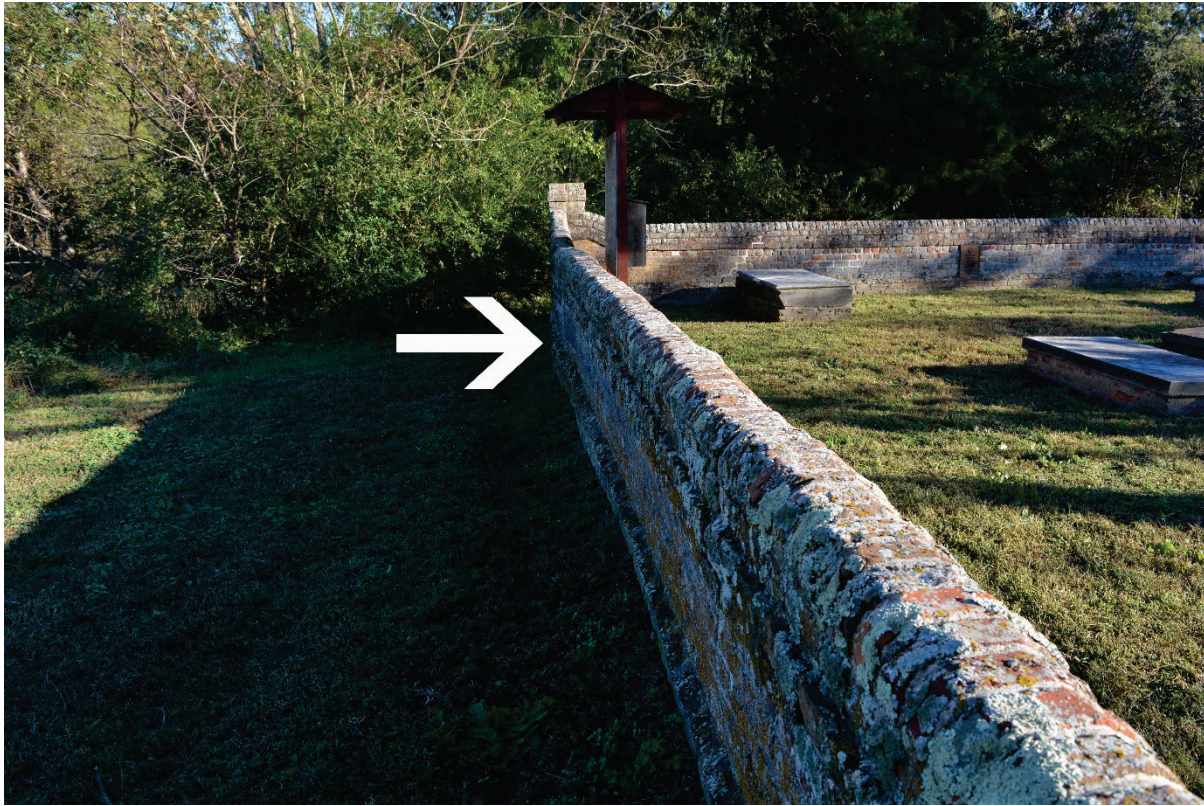


Figure 17. Cemetery wall. This photo shows the bulge in the northeastern wall at its eastern end.

wire fence, erected beyond the boundaries of the wall remains would have served to preserve and protect the site.

Nevertheless, the brick was built and is now over 80 years old and has achieved something of a historic status. The caregivers are confronted with caring for a relatively modern artifact that has little documented connection with reality.

While some care was used in the original construction, subsequent repairs often have been less than professional. No effort was taken to match either the texture or color of repair mortars to the original work. Some of the repair brick stand out from the original salvaged materials. Mortar joints are poorly finished. In addition, repairs have not kept up with the continuing deterioration of the wall.

Another issue is the removal of the stile

and replacement with a gate. We would like to think that the reproduced stile and its location were based on footings found by the APVA in the late 1920s. Unfortunately, their work today likely precludes – or at least makes very difficult – any effort to determine if this was so.

However, if a stile was present, its removal and insertion of an open entrance is yet another issue of poor preservation planning. While it may have been determined that a stile was simply too difficult (or dangerous) for the public to use, such stiles are still present at cemeteries along the east coast. But the current opening's location is distracting and entirely inconsistent with traditional colonial construction. In addition, the gate is unimpressive, representing the lightest and least expensive option available. Combined, they detract from the cemetery's appearance.

Wall Repairs

Repairs should always begin with photographing the wall as it exists in order to completely document the original fabric and construction details. Only the unsound work should be removed, stopping as soon as sound material is encountered.

Standards in Masonry Repair

A critical standard in pointing mortar joints is the National Park Service Preservation Brief 2, *Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings*, available online at <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief02.htm>. It is written by two of the foremost authorities in the United States.

Although *Preservation Brief 2* was intended to direct repointing work, it also provides a useful basis for any efforts that involve rebuilding or repairing walls.

This document makes several critical points:

- ❖ the new mortars must match the historic mortar in color, texture and tooling;
- ❖ color of new mortar is largely controlled by the sand aggregate, thus matching aggregate is critical;
- ❖ the new mortar must have greater vapor permeability and be softer (measured in compressive strength) than the masonry units;
- ❖ the new mortar must be as vapor permeable and as soft or softer (measured in compressive strength) than the historic mortar; and
- ❖ mortar is designed to be – and must be – sacrificial.

If these five rules are followed, the mortar will comply with NPS standards, be appropriate for repair work on historic structures, and most importantly “will do no harm.”

ASTM International, formerly known as

the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards. The standard ASTM C1713, *Standard Specification for Mortars for the Repair of Historic Masonry*, covers both repair mortars used for both non-structural purposes such as repointing, as well as “for structural purposes such as, but not restricted to, reconstruction or repair of mortar joints that contribute to the structural integrity of the masonry.”

The document requires that aggregates conform to ASTM C144, additions are strictly limited, pigments must conform to ASTM C979 (pigments may not exceed 10% by weight of the binder, except for carbon black, which is limited to 2%), and binders are primarily non-hydraulic lime (e.g., lime putty, ASTM C1489) or hydraulic limes (ASTM C144).

The document also provides guidance on volume proportions, noting that they are typically combined with ratios ranging from 1 part total binder materials to 2 to 3½ parts aggregate, although a few may fall outside this range.

Other Standards or recommendations for work such as this include the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation, as well as the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice, which have been previously discussed.

Finally, there are also widely recognized standards of performance for masonry work. Virtually all historic preservation specifications, for example, include a provision requiring the contractor to have demonstrated proficiency in restoration by previous successful performance of specific tasks within the past 10 years. The firm itself must generally be able to show at least 5 years of experience. The goal of such standards is to ensure that those performing the work have done so in the past and are not “learning” using your materials and site.

Generally, mock-ups are required. These

are panels, often about 16 ft² in a location on site selected by the client. The sample panels built by the prospective mason must match the existing masonry in coursing, bond pattern, and mortar joint configuration. The test panels may involve the construction of a wall, repointing, or other tasks required by the contract. When inspected and approved by the client (or more often the architect or conservator), the panels become the standard for quality, color range, size range, texture, and inclusions. All materials and performance must conform to the approved samples, subject to normal variation.

There is often a requirement that at least one skilled journeyman mason be on-site at all times to personally direct the work of other masons employed on the job.

There are typically requirements that all materials be delivered to the job site in new, unopened containers and that they be protected from wetting by rain, snow or ground water, and from staining or intermixture with earth or other types of materials

Strict weather condition limitations are also enforced. No work may be performed in wet weather. No masonry work is allowed when the surface temperature of masonry is below 40° F or air temperature is predicted to be below 40° F within 48 hours. Masonry must not be allowed to freeze until the mortar is thoroughly dry and hardening almost complete. No mortar work is typically permitted when the temperature rises above 100°F. The mason is also responsible to provide sun and wind protection, such as burlap sheeting to prevent “flash curing” of the mortar. The mason must also be able to moisten the mortar periodically after it has been installed.

In the mixing of mortar, good practice demands that ingredients (e.g., binder and aggregate) be measured by cubic volume using a uniform measure. Shovel measuring should never be permitted and is poor practice. It also matters whether constituents are measured dry or moist. For example, there is a significant increase in bulk volume of dry sand when water is added. If sand is

measured dry, more sand is put into the mix than if the same volume of damp sand were used. Oversanding can result in gritty, hard working, and when dried, weak mortars.

There are also widely recognized performance standards. Bricks should be laid with completely filled bed and head joints, ends should be buttered with sufficient mortar to fill head joints. Masonry must be laid plumb and true, following the coursing, patterns, and joint size of adjacent (or original) construction. Minor dabs of adherent mortar must be struck off the brick surfaces. Excess mortar must be brushed from surfaces frequently during the work. Existing surfaces must be protected from mortar dripping and splashing. Minor mortar marks must be removed by misting with water and brushing with a small, stiff bristle brush. After the mortar has set, the loose mortar and soil should be removed with clear, clean water. Acid cleaning should be strictly prohibited.

Much cleaning can be avoided by minimizing water use in mortar and pointing mortars, in particular, must be applied very dry (the consistency of damp brown sugar) to permit good compaction and prevent smearing.

Walls or repointing should be misted to ensure the slow curing of the mortar. This generally involves misting at least three times daily (more depending on weather conditions), usually for several weeks after the work is completed.

Mortar and Jointing

Historic bricks are often far softer than modern examples. The use of a modern hard cement mortar will cause extensive damage to this soft brick as one expands more rapidly than the other does. Mortar should always be designed to deteriorate more quickly than the brick (it should be sacrificial), since the mortar can be readily replaced through pointing.

Often masons use a Type S masonry cement field mixed with sand. Masonry cement

is a prepackaged combination of Portland cement and plasticizers. The mix of these bagged mortar mixes is typically proprietary and is not required by ASTM standards to include hydrated lime (ground limestone is accepted). Great compressive strength is neither needed nor appropriate. The 28-day compressive strength of these mortars is 1,800 psi – far too hard for the historic bricks. Consequently, masonry cements are not recommended for use on preservation projects.

An alternative is the use of natural hydraulic lime (NHL) 3.5, which is moderately hydraulic. While not used historically, a benefit of these mortars is that they provide a quicker initial set while maintaining many of the other benefits of lime. The 28-day compressive strength of NHL 3.5 is about 200 psi, increasing to about 800 psi in a year.

Thus, NHL 3.5 is appropriate for the brickwork at the Warner Hall Cemetery.

An alternative – and we believe better choice – to field mixes are prebagged NHL mortar and sand mixes offered by a variety of companies, including Limeworks.us and U.S. Heritage.

Jointing or joint tooling is done for two reasons. The one most often mentioned is aesthetic – a means of finishing the mortar to appear neat and give a good visual impression. However, an equally important reason is structural. When a brick is laid on mortar, it will absorb some of the moisture from the mix, resulting in partial dehydration of the joint toward the outer face. Water is also lost through evaporation. Jointing – the process of firmly pressing a tool against the mortar – consolidates the mortar near the surface, reducing the pore volume and closing up shrinkage cracks.

It is particularly important not to tool the joints too early since this will bring too much “fat” or fines to the surface, producing a slicked surface or skim coat that inhibits appropriate curing. Tooling involves several steps. First, any gaps must be filled, although good masons leave few such

gaps. First perpendicular or head joints are tooled. The bed joints are then jointed. Finally, the joints should be brushed firmly with a soft brush. The goal of this action is to remove protruding mortar deposits on head and bed joints.

Nevertheless, not all masons are equally skilled at jointing, nor are all joints equally appropriate.

Good preservation practice mandates that whatever tooling was present originally, be replicated. Where no jointing evidence remains, which is often the case on very old walls, especially walls with deteriorating mortar, there is an appropriate option. A churn brush can be used when the mortar is thumbnail hard. The brush is pounded on the wall and its joints resulting in several simultaneous actions. The mortar is very effectively compacted in the joints, sealing any shrinkage cracks. The bristles open pores, promoting better carbonation of lime mortars. Any small smears of mortar are knocked off bricks. In addition, the resulting joints take on a weather-worn appearance that helps the brick work blend in (remember, we do not want attention drawn to new brick work – we want it to appear as though it has been there for years).

Introduction of Additional Memorials

Various groups have desired to introduce new markers or memorials into the cemetery and in one case, a group sought to replace an existing marker.

Since the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, caregivers should be very circumspect in allowing modern additions to the landscape or modifications of the existing historic fabric. It is very important that the historic context and appearance of the cemetery be carefully maintained.

Replacement Monuments

All people deserve the dignity of ensuring



Figure 18. Inappropriate modifications. The top photo shows a modern granite marker that is discordant in the historic cemetery. The lower photo shows a plaque attached to the brick wall. Note also the corrosion of the bolt attachments.



Figure 19. Appropriate addition. The small, unobtrusive flush to ground marker is an appropriate mechanism to provide additional information in a historic cemetery.

their grave is marked and there are times when a marker is so eroded or difficult to read that it no longer serves as an appropriate memorial.

The original marker should never be removed. Nor should it be recarved (an issue that we will discuss in a following section). Instead, the original marker should be left in place and a new marker laid at its foot as a lawn marker (a horizontal plaque). The new marker may be bronze or granite as both exhibit considerable longevity. By allowing only lawn markers, the three-dimensional landscape of the cemetery is maintained, while the grave continues to be memorialized.

The new marker should contain only what is (or was) on the original marker, with the addition in small letters that it is an additional

marker erected in a particular year. This helps ensure that it is made clear that it is a recent introduction into the historic cemetery.

If there is nothing legible on a marker and there is no reliable historic transcription, then the new marker should say something such as, "Presumed to be the resting place of [name]." Doing otherwise misleads the public and introduces false information into the historic record.

These standard practices have not been followed. In fact, an existing marker has been entirely replaced using a massive granite ledger. This ledger fails to match the style or visual appearance of the remainder of the cemetery. As such, it creates a discordant appearance in the burial ground.

We reiterate, the caregivers must never allow family egos to detract from the historic integrity of this National Register site. Too many modifications have occurred already.

Additional Memorials

Those wishing to introduce new memorials into the historic fabric **must always follow a simple, fundamental rule**. The historic fabric must never be physically or visually affected by the introduction.

There are three new introductions. The oldest is a bronze plaque attached to the interior southeast wall. This effort damaged the brickwork by needlessly drilling and mounting the plaque. In addition, those installing the plaque used ferrous bolts that not only will have a galvanic reaction to the bronze, but will corrode.

There are two newer introductions – consisting of granite lawn markers placed flush with the ground at the foot of the graves. These are entirely acceptable since they do not damage the ledgers, nor do they affect the three-dimensional appearance of the cemetery.

Recommendations

- The brick wall must be considered as part of the historic fabric at this point. This means that all repairs must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. This includes the use of matching replacement bricks where necessary, mortar must match existing material in color and texture, and must be softer than the brick.
- Should any wall work require below grade excavation, it would become essential to first conduct an archaeological examination to determine if any information concerning the original wall can still be ascertained.
- The introduction of new ledgers must be very carefully monitored and limited. New monuments should be allowed only when

the historic monument is no longer legible. In such cases, the original monument must remain and a new flush marker with the precise language of the original marker erected as a flush-to-ground lawn marker.

- Similarly, additional commemorative markers must never be installed on historic fabric, but should only be allowed as flush to ground markers or placed outside the cemetery brick wall.

CEMETERY FIXTURES

Landscape Issues

Our assessments typically include a lengthy and detailed section on landscape maintenance. However, family cemeteries tend to be different. They are small and the earliest ones tended to represent very simple forms lacking ornamentation and pathways since space was often at a premium (Sloane 1991:14-17).

Although the historic context of the Warner Hall cemetery is undocumented, by 1903 when it was first photographed, it lacked trees, shrubbery, or any ornamentation. It was overtaken with field grass. Through time, the Warner Hall cemetery has not dramatically varied from this early appearance, although a wall was built and the grass was cut.

The Deed of Gift from Preservation Virginia to the Stavens requires that they assume responsibility for the maintenance of the cemetery. Even before 2015, the Stavens retained Second Nature Landscaping of Gloucester, Virginia about 2010. At that time, the cost of this work was about \$2,000 a year.

Most of this work deals with the mowing of the easement from Warner Hall Road to the cemetery, as well as mowing within the cemetery.

Cemetery Soil

Warner Hall Cemetery reports that no soil sampling for either turf or trees has been conducted. It becomes difficult to manage vegetation in the cemetery if there is no data on the condition of the soils.

It is good practice to test soils every three to five years. To begin this process, we have conducted soil tests on one sample, taken from within the center of the cemetery. Our analyses

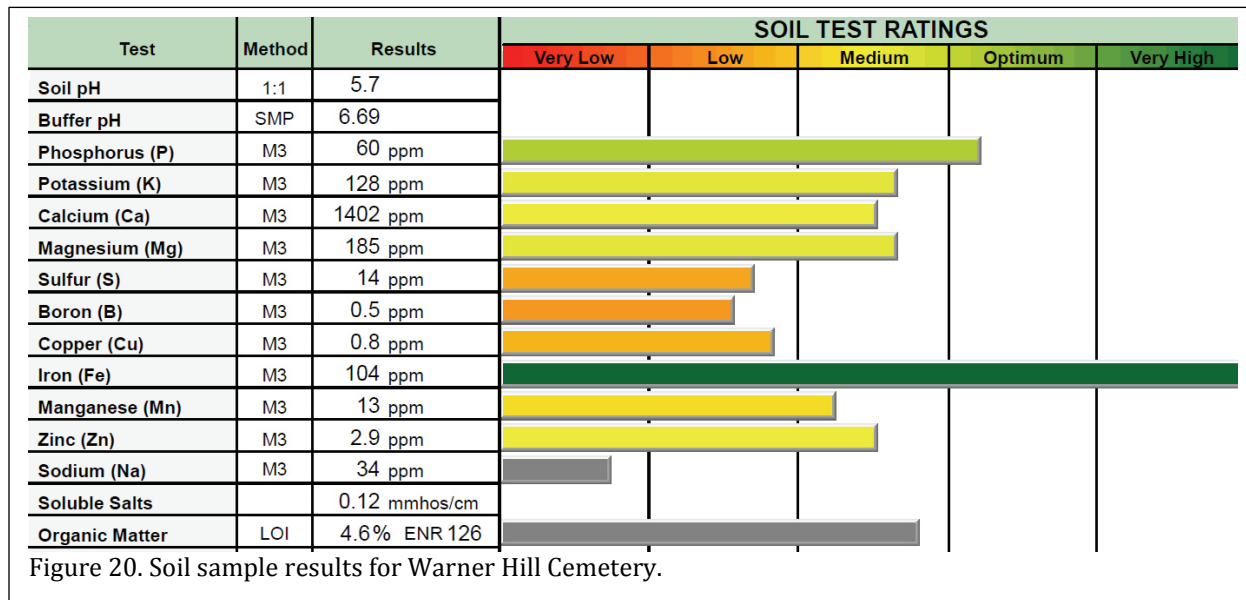
were conducted by A&L Eastern Laboratories. The results of these tests are provided in Figure 20.

The cemetery soil has a high cation exchange capacity (11.4 meg/100g). The cation exchange capacity is the maximum quantity of total cations, of any class, that a soil is capable of holding, at a given pH value, available for exchange with the soil solution. It is used as a measure of fertility and nutrient retention capacity, and in general, the higher the number, the higher the soil fertility. The cation exchange capacity can be improved with the introduction of humus and organic matter. The results of this study show that the tested soils have high levels of organic material, are able to retain nutrients and thus are considered relatively fertile.

The organic matter is satisfactory (4.6%) in these loamy soils and are not in need of soil amendments.

Soil pH 5.7, a figure that is considered acidic. The optimum plant growth range is between 6.5 and 7.0 for most plants, although centipede prefers slightly more acidic soils, in the range of 5.0 to 5.5. Nevertheless, we do not recommend pH adjustment at this time (until a decision is made on the future turf at the site).

Phosphorus (P) levels are very close to optimum. Phosphorus is essential for photosynthesis, seed and fruit production, plant energy production, and cell division. Adequate supplies will promote root growth and formation, greater flowering and seed production, better growth in cold temperatures, and efficient water use. Soil compaction and a lack of aeration will reduce phosphorus levels. Neither appears to be a problem at Warner Hall.



Potassium (K) is also essential in photosynthesis, plant growth, and effective response to drought stress. Levels are at a medium level. The potassium levels could be improved.

Sodium (Na) is not a plant nutrient and therefore is not necessary for plant growth. High levels of sodium are detrimental to soil structure, soil permeability, and plant growth. Thus, the very low levels at Warner Hall are good.

Calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) levels are at medium levels. These are satisfactory. Sulfur (S) levels, however, are low. Described as a secondary plant nutrient because it is generally not as deficient as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, it is as important as any of the major nutrients. It is most common affected by leaching.

Micronutrients include boron, copper, iron, manganese, and zinc. Boron and copper are both slightly low and could be supplemented. Manganese is adequate. Iron levels are very high, which we assume to be a characteristic of these soils.

While these test results suggest that supplemental potassium (K), boron (B), and copper (Cu) might be beneficial, the addition of

these fertilizers is really only necessary if the caregivers are interested in converting the current field grass to a uniform turf. If so, one pound of potassium fertilizer can be added per 1,000 square feet. Borax (0.5 pound per 1,000 square feet) and copper sulfate (1.0 pound per 1,000 square feet), can be broadcast and mixed into the soil to increase boron and copper levels.

If or when in the future fertilizers are to be applied, slow release organic fertilizers are preferable to commercial inorganic fertilizers since they have significantly lower salt indices. An excellent source explaining the differences between organic and inorganic fertilizers is <http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/234.pdf>. The publication at <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/3-McLaurin-Reeves-How-to-Convert-an-Inorganic-Fertilizer-Recommendation-Into-an-Organic-One.pdf> provides information on converting traditional inorganic fertilizer recommendations to safer organic recipes.

After a year, the soils should be retested and a decision made on whether to address other nutrient deficiencies.

Sometimes there is the concern that

application of fertilizer, especially nitrogen, will only make the grass (or weeds) grow more quickly and require more frequent mowing. To some degree, this is true, but it will also help strengthen the grass and encourage over seeded grass to overtake weed production.

Consideration should be given to application of a pre-emergent herbicide also to help fight the weeds.

Turf

Turfgrass should be an important concern of cemeteries, although rarely is it given adequate attention. With an appropriate turfgrass, mowing frequency is reduced. This reduces labor costs, pollution, equipment expenditures, and perhaps most importantly for historic properties, damage to the stones.

At the Warner Hall Cemetery, the turf consists of various field grasses; we identified no recognizable turf. The field grass is consistent with what is found surrounding the walled cemetery, representing what has been present for a number of years, likely going back to when the field was occupied by cattle.

Mowing

Because mowing is contracted out, we were unable to determine what type of equipment is being used. We suspect, however, that the bulk of it is being done by a large deck riding mower, perhaps 47 to 60-inch zero turn mower on the 12-foot easement. Within the cemetery, it is possible that some mowing is being done with a 21-inch walk-behind mower. However, given the small size of the cemetery, the work may be accomplished solely by the use of a string trimmer. We understand that the remainder of the field is being mowed by the Stavens using a tractor and mower attachment.

At the time of this assessment, the grass in and immediately around the cemetery (within the easement) was mowed or trimmed to a height of no more than 1½-inches – shorter than the height of the grass elsewhere in the field being tractor

mowed.

We observed no scalped areas. There was no accumulation of grass, indicating that it had been allowed to grow excessively before being mowed. Nor did we observe any indication of discarded trimmer line (which seems ubiquitous at every larger cemetery we examine).

We also found no evidence of mower or trimmer damage to the stones or brick ledgers.

The use of trimmers is an acceptable practice, but it is critical that a very lightweight line be used – along with worker attention – to minimize damage to soft stone and brick. We recommend a line diameter no greater than 0.065-inch. Thicker lines can cause extensive, and unnecessary, damage to stones. In addition, anything that a 0.065-inch line cannot remove, such as small trees and vines, should be cut with pruning shears.

Other Issues

A benefit of the existing field grass is that it requires virtually no attention. Application of pre- or post-emergent herbicides would be inappropriate, since it would likely damage the existing turf. Irrigation, which would be a very difficult task, is unnecessary, except perhaps in an extreme drought. Pests tend to be uncommon and, when they occur, are likely to do little damage to the indigenous grasses.

The one exception is the fire ant. This species has been discovered in Accomack, Chesterfield, Henrico, York, Isle of Wight, Gloucester and James City counties, and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Richmond, Williamsburg and Franklin.

While we observed no fire ant nests during this assessment, it is likely only a matter of time before they are encountered at Warner Hall.

One survey done in 1998 concluded that 33,000 people in the state of South Carolina sought medical attention because of fire ant stings. Of

those 15% had severe localized allergic reactions and 2% had severe systemic reactions resulting in anaphylactic shock. Thus, fire ants are not simply an aesthetic nuisance, but they can pose a significant threat to the health of cemetery visitors.

An exceptional resource is the document, *Managing Imported Fire Ants in Urban Areas* (https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201191_5.PDF).

The cemetery itself, even including the easement, is small enough to treat individual mounds. In larger areas, such as the easement or the field from the cemetery to Warner Hall, a far better approach is to treat once or twice a year, typically in April or May and again in September or October, by broadcasting a hydramethylnon bait such as Amdro at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per acre. These applications will provide about 90% suppression rates, with maximum control about 2 to 4 weeks after application.

After 10-14 days the Amdro should be used as an individual mound treatment on any mounds that continue to be a problem or that remain in high traffic areas.

This treatment cost is about \$25/acre.

Cemetery Trees

Selection Issues

Cemeteries, in general, have historically been dominated by large deciduous trees, although evergreens such as cedar are also very common. The trees provide a distinctly inviting image for visitors and passersby. They provide shade, reduce stormwater runoff, stabilize soil, and reduce evaporative water loss.

Ideally, the trees selected should be historically appropriate. At Warner Hall, we have no information regarding the planting or any early landscaping that may have been conducted. Most colonial cemeteries, however, received no landscaping and any trees that grew up were likely

accidental occurrences.

Now there are only three trees – two to the right, when facing the cemetery (i.e., west) and one to the left (i.e., east). All three of these trees are of the same species of *Prunus* (cherry, plum, et al.).

The two trees to the west of the cemetery have been topped. The trunks indicate considerable age, but also considerable disease and rot. Both trees, because of topping, are producing extensive suckers.

The dropping branches of these trees intrude into the cemetery and also obscure the gravesite of James J. McLanahan, just outside the cemetery wall. Because it is difficult to mow around these trees, there is an understory of herbaceous vegetation, as well as downed timber.

The tree to the east of the cemetery is marginally healthier and the branches do not intrude into the cemetery. Nevertheless, there are multiple large limbs that, should they fall because of wind, ice, or disease, are likely to affect the brick wall of the cemetery.

The documents we have been able to identify suggest that the Gloucester Preservation Foundation conducted some pruning on “the trees outside the cemetery” in 2012. The work was described as pruning and shaping and the cost was reported to be \$750 (email from Troy and Theresa Stavens to Members of the Mildred Read Warner Email Group, April 19, 2012). Unfortunately, more detailed information is not available.

The trees to the west of the cemetery are in such poor health and so poorly maintained that we strongly recommend that they both be removed. This would involve cutting the tree within 2-inches of the ground. We do not recommend any effort to grind the stumps. Instead, the stumps should be drilled and a brush herbicide injected to prevent the tree from suckering.

Extreme care should be taken to avoid dropping any portion of the tree on the cemetery

or its wall. All debris should also be removed from the cemetery buffer zone by hand. No mechanized equipment should be used since it may rut or otherwise damage any below surface remains.

The tree to the east does not appear healthy and the weak overhanging limbs are of a concern. We recommend removal. However, its removal may be postponed, if the tree is annually evaluated by an ISA certified arborist.

Certified arborists have a minimum of three years' experience in some aspect of tree care and have passed an exam developed by an international panel of experts. The exam extensively covers every aspect of tree care and the individuals must have an acceptable level of knowledge in all areas of arboriculture.

We have identified two certified arborists in Gloucester (Table 2) and there are likely additional arborists within 25 or 30 miles.

Replanting

Within a cemetery, we recommend trees be replanted when they die or must be removed, in order to maintain the historic landscape and three-dimensional appearance of the cemetery. These trees, however are outside the cemetery, in the easement, and are therefore of less concern.

If either the caregivers or the Stavens feel strongly about replacing the trees, we have several recommendations.

Table 2. ISA Certified Arborists in Gloucester, Virginia			
Name	Company	Phone	Email
Charles Gardner	Gardner Tree Care	804-684-9480	linefence5@yahoo.com
Gordon Thomas	Gordon Thomas Tree Consultations	804-824-2201	thomastreecarellc@outlook.com

Locations chosen for planting should not interfere with gravestones, curbing, or fences. We urge that any replanted tree not, as it matures, overhang the cemetery wall. Nor should any replanted trees to the west interfere with the

McLanahan grave or its maintenance. Thus, all trees should be moved further away from the cemetery proper.

Issues of security should also be considered and the use of small trees that obscure eye level views should be limited or avoided.

All replacement trees or new plantings should be of at least 1-inch caliper and meet the minimum requirements of the American Nursery and Landscape Association's American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2004). This is available at http://www.nurserycropscience.info/cultural-practices/pruning/other-references/american-nursery-landscape-association-standards-2004.pdf/at_download/file.

Once planted, young trees must be well tended. This usually includes ensuring they have water and are protected from animal and mower damage. Some also require early pruning to ensure they develop properly.

There are a variety of water bags for young trees, including the Treegator (<http://www.treegator.com>). In fact, bags are now readily available in big box stores.

Young tree trunks can be protected from trimmer and animal damage using rigid tree guards (<https://www.amleo.com/leonard-rigid-plastic-mesh-tree-guards-set-of-5/p/VP-BG/>).

In addition, the caregivers or the Stavens must be willing to engage in better tree maintenance than has been given the tree currently present. This will involve at

least four basic issues: watering, fertilization, pruning, and pest control.



Figure 21. Tree issues. Upper photo shows the two nearly dead trees on the west side of the cemetery that should be removed. Lower photo shows the one tree on the east side of the cemetery that, if not removed, should be inspected by an ISA Certified Arborist on a yearly basis.



Figure 22. Brush surrounding the McLanahan monument base that must be removed so this area may be maintained in a fashion similar to the remainder of the cemetery easement.

Shrubs

Historically, most colonial family cemeteries were not planted in shrubs. Where they are found they usually provide evidence of

misguided “beautification” efforts. Fortunately, no shrubs are present at Warner Hall and we do not recommend that any be added now, or in the future. Not only would they be historically inappropriate, but they will increase the maintenance needs of the cemetery.

Recommendations

- While the soil test results suggest that supplemental potassium (K), boron (B), and copper (Cu) might be beneficial, the addition of these fertilizers is really only necessary if the caregivers are interested in converting the current field grass to a uniform turf.
- We recommend the use of organic fertilizers since they have lower salt content than inorganic fertilizers and will less seriously affect the monuments.
- Mowing appears good; grass is at an appropriate length, there is no evidence of scalping, and there is no evidence of the stones or wall being damaged.
- We recommend the line used in trimmers at the cemetery be no greater than 0.065-inch.
- Caregivers should anticipate that in the future access, easement, and the cemetery might have fire ants. We recommend the control of these pests using a hydramethylnon bait twice a year.
- The two trees to the west of the cemetery should be removed by a certified arborist capable of ensuring no damage is done to the cemetery wall or the McLanahan grave. All debris should be removed from the easement. No mechanized equipment should be used.

- The resulting stumps should not be ground, but may be drilled for the addition of a brush herbicide to prevent suckers.
- The brush around the McLanahan stone should be carefully removed by hand and the area maintained in the same manner as the rest of the easement.
- The single tree to the east of the cemetery does not pose as great a threat to the cemetery, but we recommend its removal. If it is to be left, we recommend that an ISA Certified Arborist inspect it yearly.
- If new trees are to be planted in the easement area, they should be carefully identified to be historically appropriate and to avoid significant issues such as surface roots, excessive litter, or weak structure.
- All replacement trees or new plantings should be at least 1-inch caliper and meet the minimum requirements of the American Nursery and Landscape Association's American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2004). All nursery stock should be carefully inspected prior to acceptance and planting.
- All new plantings should have water bags and rigid tree guards installed.
- We do not recommend any "beautification" efforts or plantings around or in the cemetery. Such plantings would be historically inappropriate and would further increase maintenance costs with no clear benefit.

Other Maintenance Issues

This section briefly explores other cemetery maintenance concerns exclusive of the landscape. We will briefly discuss signage issues and flowers.

Signage

We have alluded to the absence of signage in several discussions.

Currently, the Warner Hall Cemetery does not have meaningful signage. There is, or at least, was, an APVA sign at the easement entrance, but that is all. Visitors coming to the Inn are offered to borrow, or purchase, a history of the cemetery that contains a map of the cemetery and transcriptions of the stones.

Lacking is any information regarding hours or regulations regarding appropriate behavior. Visitors arriving at the old APVA entrance don't have any information regarding the location of the cemetery easement.

From a cemetery preservation perspective signage is of four basic types: identification, regulatory, informational, and interpretative. They are generally recommended in this same priority.

Identification signage might include the name of the cemetery and might also include the cemetery's date of founding and historic significance (i.e., listed on the National Register).

Regulatory signage specifies laws, regulations, or expected standards of behavior.

The last two types of signage are informational (for example, directional signs) and interpretative (information on historic people buried in the cemetery). While these are excellent

and improve the visitor experience, none is critical at this point since other issues must take priority. Additional signage may be added in the future.

The cemetery caregivers must strive to develop effective and well-designed signage. Signage should combine good and consistent design, and meet the needs of visitors.

Specifically, the signage should provide consistent information; should be universally accessible; should be viewable by several people at once; and should be very durable and able to withstand abuse or constant touching.

Signage minimally should be located at the APVA easement and also at the cemetery (for those arriving by way of the Warner Hall Inn).

Identification Signage

I am told the current APVA identification sign (at the easement entrance) is in poor condition (I did not know it existed at the time of the assessment). Google Street View shows that it contains little more than the name of the cemetery.

It requires replacement using a sign in the standard APVA or Preservation Virginia theme that includes the name of the cemetery and that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It should be located within the entrance fence to make it a less attractive target for vandals.

Regulatory Signage

There is no current regulatory signage at any location and this is an issue that should be corrected as a very high priority. Figure 23 provides an example of the issues that should be included on new regulatory signage.

Warner Hall Plantation Burial Ground
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980
Burial ground of early members of the Warner, Lewis, Clayton, and
McLanahan Families of Colonial and Antebellum Virginia

Enjoy your visit with us, but please keep in mind these rules:

1. The cemetery is open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Anyone present at other times is subject to arrest and prosecution for trespass.
2. All of the stones in this cemetery are old and may be easily damaged. Please refrain from sitting, leaning, or climbing on any monument or tomb.
3. While no gravestone rubbings are permitted, please feel free to photograph our monuments. Only commercial photography requires permission from Warner Hall Inn.
4. An adult must accompany all children.
5. Absolutely no firearms, alcoholic beverages, or fireworks are permitted in the cemetery.
6. No pets, other than service animals, are allowed.
7. As in all cemeteries, appropriate dress and behavior is required.
8. Please notify the Inn at Warner Hall prior to group tours.
9. Please respect the cemetery grounds. Don't litter or damage any plantings, trees, or monuments.
10. All placement of monuments, or cleaning of monuments, must receive prior written approval of Preservation Virginia and the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants.

In case of emergency, please call 9-1-1. Our address is _____.

Figure 23. Recommended verbiage for combined identification and regulatory signage at the Warner Hall Cemetery.

attached to the brick wall or freestanding at the wall. Figure 24 shows the current signage board.

At the time of this assessment, this signage board was empty. Adjacent to it, attached to the wall, is a sign stating, "Visitors box. Unzip cover for materials. Please rezip when finished. Thank you for visiting."

This sign is an artifact of a previous time. It serves no function now and it never should have been attached to the wall.

The sign should be removed from the wall and the wall appropriately patched. The box should be removed from the cemetery. If Preservation Virginia and the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants desire, it may be relocated outside the wall.

Identical signs should be located inside the easement entrances and at the cemetery. This signage can combine the Identification Signage.

Informational Signage

Only when more critical issues have been resolved do we recommend any informational signage. The first that may be considered is a cemetery map, which should be located at the entrance, but not within the cemetery.

Current Signage Board

For years, several different signage boards have been located within the cemetery, generally

Rather than relocation, we suggest it be eliminated and a porcelain or fiberglass sign be developed that contains a map of the cemetery, the transcriptions of the graves, and perhaps a short (1-2 sentence) statement regarding relationships or importance of the individuals. These statements should be simple and factual.

Flowers

At the time of this assessment, we observed that silk flowers had been placed at several graves. While we understand that such activities are well meaning, they cause considerable problems. They become faded and eventually they are mowed or trimmed, spreading



Figure 24. Signage board in the cemetery at the time of the assessment.

debris over the cemetery.

One solution is to prohibit artificial flowers and allow only natural flowers that can compost. Another solution is to prevent flowers entirely since they are out-of-place at a colonial cemetery. A third alternative is to request the landscape contractor for the Stovens to remove all flowers at each visit or some other set interval.

Recommendations

- There is no regulatory signage currently and this must be rectified as quickly as possible. This signage should be located immediately within the road gate and at the entrance to the graveyard.
- Identification signage is also needed, although the two can be combined.



Figure 25. Flower issues at the Warner Hall Cemetery. Photo at the top shows silk flowers placed in the colonial burial ground. Photo below shows debris from a flower arrangement that has been mowed over or trimmed.

OTHER MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Conservation Issues

In the introduction to this plan we briefly discussed a variety of preservation issues, tackling the question of why it is important to preserve sites like the Warner Hall Cemetery, as well as how preservation and restoration differ, and introducing the reader to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Preservation. Readers may want to refer back to those discussions since they form a foundation for our discussion of the conservation needs at the Cemetery.

Standards for Conservation Work

Preservation Virginia and the Society for the Washington Family Descendants are the stewards of this Cemetery, holding what belonged to past generations in trust for future generations. As such, these two organizations bear a great responsibility for ensuring that no harm comes to the property during their watch.

One way to ensure the long-term preservation of the cemetery is to ensure that all work meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation, discussed on pages 5-7 of this study.

Another critical requirement is that the caregivers ensure that any work performed in the cemetery is conducted by a trained conservator who subscribes to the Guidelines for Practice and Code of Ethics of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) (http://www.nps.gov/training/tel/Guides/HPS1022_AIC_Code_of_Ethics.pdf).

These standards cover such issues as:

- Respect the original fabric and retain

as much as possible – don't replace it needlessly.

- Ensure that the treatment chosen is suitable for the object, recognizing that at times no treatment is the best option.
- Choose the gentlest and least invasive methods possible.
- Is the treatment reversible? Is retreatment possible?
- Don't use a chemical without understanding its effect on the object and future treatments.
- Don't falsify the object by using designs or materials that imply the artifact is older than it is.
- Replication and repairs should be identified as modern so that future researchers are not misled.
- Use methods and materials that do not impede future investigation.
- Document all conservation activities and ensure that documentation is available.
- Use preventative methods whenever possible – be proactive, not reactive.

The AIC Code and Guidelines also require a professional conservator provide clients with a written, detailed treatment proposal prior to undertaking any repairs or treatment; once repairs or treatments are completed, the conservator must provide the client with a written, detailed treatment report that specifies precisely what was done and the materials used. The conservator must ensure the suitability of materials and methods – judging and evaluating the multitude of possible treatment options to arrive at the best recommendation for a particular object.

These Guidelines of Practice and Code of Ethics place a much higher standard on AIC conservators than individuals or commercial monument companies that offer “restoration services.” This higher standard, however, helps ensure that the Warner Hall Cemetery receives the very best possible care and that the treatments conducted are appropriate and safe.

Past Conservation Efforts

Several obvious past efforts were observed during this assessment. Combined, they have been described graphically by Nichols,

there are few components of the graveyard that are original except for the stone tablets and some of these may have been moved from an original site elsewhere. The brick tablet bases and brick wall have been rebuilt or restored possibly several times. Observations indicate that at least three table tombs [ledgers] were table top [table tombs] structures. What is viewed in the graveyard today are remnants of the original graveyard (Nichols 2004:18).

While we presume that many of these changes were made with the best of intentions, they have nevertheless dramatically affected, in a negative manner, the historic integrity of this burial ground. In addition, the most recent change – that of introducing a granite monument – was done at a time when those involved should have realized that such actions were clearly inappropriate and contrary to the Secretary of the Interior Standards.

There are several issues that must be documented:

1. The brick wall, as recognized by Nichols and clearly documented by the documentary review in this study, is not original and represents in height, bonding pattern, and design, an imagined version.

While the bricks are “historic,” the mortar used was not and is too hard, resulting in problems today.

2. The reconstruction of the wall likely damaged or possibly even destroyed the archaeological evidence that might help resolve issues such as the presence and location of a gate or stile, as well as construction and demolition episodes.
3. None of the box tombs is appropriate for the period of the stones. All evidence hard mortar and all are entirely too low to the ground for period boxes. In addition, Nichols has clearly documented that several of the stones were originally table tombs. Such table tombs would have been more ornate and more historically appropriate for the wealth and prestige of the families involved.
4. Several of the ledgers have been significantly defaced by a very poor effort at recarving. This recarving is too bold and has eliminated details consistent with colonial period carving. In one case, the carving was so bold that it has blurred letters and eliminated the ability to read the inscription easily.
5. One monument, badly damaged in the past, has been covered with a granite monument that is too massive and includes carving that it entirely out of place in the burial ground.

This assessment should mark a new day and all future actions must adhere to the highest possible standards of historic preservation.

Stone Assessments

Since none of the boxes appear to possess integrity, these discussions will only involve the stones that today are considered original historic fabric. Numbering of the stones follows that assigned by Nichols (Figure 26).

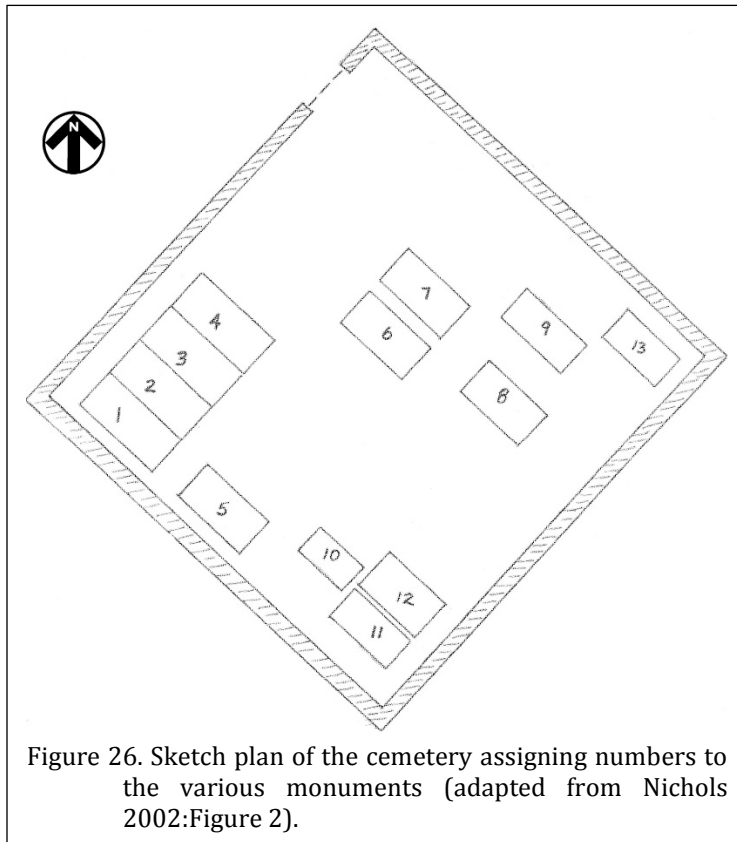


Figure 26. Sketch plan of the cemetery assigning numbers to the various monuments (adapted from Nichols 2002:Figure 2).

those to the right and left. This indicates that all three boxes were likely constructed in one episode and thus are all replacements. This is consistent with the relatively hard mortar used.

The epitaph and verse are heavily worn, but are legible with raking light and careful attention. Some minor spalling is occurring, but not in the area of previous engraving. There is a significant crack measuring about 12-inches from the top left quadrant down. This appears filled with a Portland cement and soil. There are biologicals overall.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

The Portland cement and soil in the crack should be carefully removed manually and replaced with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the crack. The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair.

1. Mary Warner (d. 1662)

Limestone ledger measuring 6'6"x3'x6" set on a low brick box. The lettering is heavily eroded; name and dates can be made out, the verse below is nearly indecipherable (even as early as 1955). Slight damage to the upper left corner. Moderate to light biologicals overall. Otherwise, the monument is intact.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

2. Augustine Warner I (d. 1674)

Limestone ledger measuring 6'8"x3'x3" and set on a low brick box that is integral with

3. Augustine Warner II (d. 1681)

Limestone ledger measuring 6'6"x3'2"x5" set on a low brick box. As mentioned above, this box appears to encompass graves 1-3 and is likely a replacement. The lettering is in the best condition of the three, but there appears to be no verse. Moderate biologicals overall.

There are two cracks, or likely breaks. One runs from the upper right corner diagonally to the left side about 2-feet from the top. The second cracks runs across the midsection from right to left.



Figure 27. Ledgers 1-4 showing current conditions. Upper left, ledger 1; upper right, ledger 2; middle left, ledger 3, middle right, crack in ledger 3; lower left additional crack; lower right, ledger 4 replacement.

Both cracks have been shifted apart for the addition of a hard Portland cement (the lower one more so than the upper). The close up photograph in Figure 27 reveals that there is today a substantial crack between the stone and the Portland cement (present at both cracks). This will allow water penetration and will exacerbate freeze-thaw damage.

There is a third crack left central radiating inward about 3-inches. This crack is open.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

The Portland cement and soil in the cracks should be carefully removed manually and replaced with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the crack. The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair.

4. Mildred Reade Warner (d. 1694?)

This is a modern granite replacement stone that is sadly inappropriate for the burial ground. We are told the fragments of the original stone have been placed under this stone, but we cannot confirm this. This granite ledger measures 6'6"x3'2"x 5" and it is situated on a low brick box that is known to be a replacement.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water.

5. Augustine Warner III (d. 1686/7)

This is a limestone ledger measuring 5'7"x2'9"x 5½" set on a low brick box. Carving is distinct. There are multiple chips missing from the right edge. More significantly, there are multiple cracks. The two largest radiate longitudinally, one

from the upper left and another from bottom right. A third crack intersects the top one at a right angle, originating at the left edge. There are several additional cracks in the center of the stone. All are sufficiently open to allow water movement and freeze-thaw damage. An effort has been made to infill both using what appears to be hard Portland cement.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

The Portland cement and soil in the cracks should be carefully removed manually and replaced with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the crack. The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair.

6. Elizabeth Lewis (d. 1719/20)

Nichols identifies this as a "granular marble." To our eyes, it is very close, though admittedly not identical, to those identified as limestone. In any event, it is not an especially refined or polished marble. It measures 6'x2'10½"x5" and exhibits both biologicals and the deposition of atmospheric pollutants.

One of the most notable features is that this monument has been very poorly recarved, reducing the beauty of the stone and its delicate character. Careful inspection of individual letters reveals the hesitation marks or jumps of a pneumatic chisel.

There are several relatively minor cracks in the ledger, none of which appears to have been infilled with Portland cement.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.



Figure 28. Ledgers 5-9.

The cracks should be treated with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the cracks. The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair.

It rests on a box tomb that also supports stone 7, suggesting that the box, like others in the cemetery, has been completely rebuilt.

7. John Lewis (d. 1725)

This ledger measures 6'x2'11"x6". It is otherwise nearly identical to stone 6. While it may lithologically marble, it is very similar to those stones identified as limestone. Like stone 6, it has been entirely recarved, with the loss of its original delicate characteristics. There are biologicals overall. There is also damage to the lower left corner. There are not, however, any noticeable cracks in the ledger.

We recommend, therefore, that the monument only be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

8. Mary Lewis (d. 1776)

This is a much more refined marble that retains evidence of polishing. It measures 5'11"x2'11"x3' and like the others rests of a low box built using hard Portland cement.

There is a significant crack on the right side, about 7-inches in length. A minor crack is found in the center bottom of the ledger and is only 3-inches in length. The lower right corner has suffered repeated blows or similar damage. The stone, while not sugaring, does exhibit some degree of delamination. There is abundant lichen growth on this stone.

We recommend, therefore, that the monument only be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft

bristle brushes.

The larger cracks should be treated with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the cracks. The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair. The smaller crack is unlikely to accept even diluted dispersed hydrated lime and we recommend that it be carefully monitored. Similarly, the spalling should be monitored for possible intervention if the issue becomes more pronounced.

9. Warner Lewis (d. 1791)

This marble ledger measures 5'11"x3'x3' and rests on a low brick box. This box evidences spalling of the brick because of the hard Portland cement mortar. The ledger is in almost every respect identical to that of stone 8. It represents a better grade of marble, although there is spalling. One significant difference is that it does not indicate any cracking at this time.

The only treatment we recommend is that the monument only be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

10. Juliana Clayton (d. 1734)

This monument consists of an extremely poor quality marble – we would be more inclined to characterize it as limestone. This particular monument does have a more ornate carved edge, which does tend to be more typical of marble examples. Regardless, it measures 5'x2'7"x3" and is set on a low brick box.

Only a portion of the carving is legible, but this seems to have been the case at least as early as 1894. Of greater significance, the stone is broken into three pieces and has been poorly repaired using very hard Portland cement applied both in and over the breaks. It appears that water can enter through capillary action around the edges of the repairs and thus the monument may be subject to

freeze-thaw damage. There is moderate lichen on the stone.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

The Portland cement in the cracks should be carefully removed manually and replaced with a suitable soft infill tinted to match the cleaned stone after an effort is made to obtain a closer registration of the broken fragments. We recommend the use of a dispersed hydrated lime injected in the crack, although it may also be necessary to drill and pin the fragments if they are entirely broken (the infill is not intended to be an adhesive). The stone should then be inspected every five years to evaluate the condition of the repair.

11. Isabella Clayton (d. 1772)

This ledger is a better grade marble, although not as good as seen for stones 7-9. Like stone 10, however, it exhibits working along its edges. In addition, it is one of the two stones in the cemetery that contain carved family crests. The ledger measures 6'8"x 3'4"x4". There is slight erosion on the surface. Lichen is minor.

Sadly, this ledger has also been recarved and as a result has suffered irreparable damage and disfigurement.

The only treatment we recommend is that the monument only be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

12. Thomas Clayton (d. 1739)

This ledger is a marble similar to stone 11 and is set on an integral low brick box, providing a clue that this grave was also entirely reconstructed. The ledger measures 6'4"x3'3"x6".

This stone has also been recarved and the

quality is so poor that it has been almost impossible to distinguish individual letters. Unfortunately, this stone also exhibits a family crest.

The only treatment we recommend is that the monument only be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

13. Caroline Barret (d. 1811)

This is the best marble ledger in the cemetery (likely because of its late date). It measures 6'½"x3'x2" and is broken into at least three fragments, with a fourth apparently lost. The lost section at some previous time was replaced by a well-executed replacement made from (we believe) white Portland cement and lime. This stone was apparently broken at least by 2004, when Nichols reported moving parts aside to examine better what he described as dark gray limestone. We would classify this material as slate.

Regardless, he observed that the underside of the marble revealed evidence that this was one of the stones that originally was a table tomb. We believe that the large slate (or limestone) slab was likely the base on which the table was erected.

There are biologicals overall.

We recommend that the monument be cleaned by full strength D/2 Biological Solution and flushed with potable water. Scrubbing should be minimal and use only soft bristle brushes.

The breaks should be cleaned and tested for registration. It will likely be appropriate to drill the fragments for the insertion of fiberglass pins – a process called a blind pin repair. These pins will be set using a hi-mod, moisture insensitive structural epoxy and the ledger clamped until the pins are set. It will then be necessary to infill areas of loss using color-matched materials. Options include St. Astier Lithomex or Jahn M-120 Marble Mortar.



Figure 29. Ledgers 10-13. Bottom photo is a close-up of stone 13 showing the open breaks and infill section.



Figure 30. McLanahan grave and marker. The upper left photo shows the marker at Abington Church in 2004. The upper right photo shows what was left behind at Warner Hall. The lower photo shows these remains as they exist today.

The stone should continue to be monitored every 5 years.

14. James J. McLanahan (d. 1838)

This grave was situated outside the wall for reasons that have not been adequately explained or historically documented. At some point – again for reasons not clearly documented – the ledger was removed and taken to the Abington Episcopal Church in Gloucester. A photograph by Nichols (2004:6) reveals that it is today in four fragments with what appear to be Portland cement repairs. The bulk of the stone, however, is present and is legible. In another photograph, he documents the condition of what was left behind at Warner Hall, when the ledger was moved (Nichols 2004:23).

Thus, at one point this monument, like others in the Warner Hall Cemetery, was a table tomb. As it became broken, it was taken to the churchyard, although the burial was apparently left in place and is now essentially anonymous.

This is very unfortunate and the Warner Hall caregivers should try to ensure that the stone is taken back to Warner Hall, so it can continue to mark the grave. Treatment would, of course, include blind pin repairs and infill.

If this is not possible, then we recommend that a small, new flush-to-ground marker be

Table 3.
Comparison of different cleaning techniques

Cleaning Technique	Potential Harm to Stone	Health/Safety Issues
Sand Blasting	Erodes stone; highly abrasive; will destroy detail and lettering over time.	Exposure to marble dust is a source of the fatal lung disease silicosis.
Pressure Washers	High pressure abrades stone. Inexperienced users can exacerbate this. Pressures should not exceed 90 psi.	None, unless chemicals are added or high temperature water is used.
Acid Cleaning	Creates an unnatural surface on the stone; deposits iron compounds that will stain the stone; deposits soluble salts that damage the stone.	Acids are highly corrosive, requiring personal protective equipment under mandatory OSHA laws; may kill grass and surrounding vegetation.
Sodium Hypochlorite & Calcium Hypochlorite (household and swimming pool bleach)	Will form soluble salts, which will reappear as whitish efflorescence; can cause yellowing; some salts are acidic.	Respiratory irritant; can cause eye injury; strong oxidizer; can decompose to hazardous gasses.
Hydrogen Peroxide	Often causes distinctive reddish discolorations; will etch polished marble and limestone.	Severe skin and eye irritant.
Ammonium Hydroxide	Repeated use may lead to discoloration through precipitation of hydroxides.	Respiratory, skin, and eye irritant.
D/2 Architectural Antimicrobial	No known adverse effects, has been in use for nearly 15 years.	No special precautions required for use, handling, or storage.

acquired and set at the grave to ensure that the burial does not become lost.

Cleaning

Many of the stones exhibit relatively dense deposits of lichen (a symbiotic association typically between fungus and green algae) or algae alone. While sometimes viewed as only an aesthetic issue, they often make it difficult to read the stone. In addition, these biologicals may damage stone in a variety of additional ways. As lichen and other plants grow, they can exert pressure on the mineral grains, weakening the intergranular structure. Some organisms produce acid compounds that dissolve the calcium carbonate. Some can even etch granite. Many of the lichen and algae allow water to migrate into cracks and crevices of the stone, leading to freeze-thaw damage.

Table 3 lists problems with a variety of “common” stone cleaning processes widely used by commercial firms and the public. A suitable biocide for cleaning stones is D/2 Biological Solution (<http://d2bio.com/>) available from a variety of conservation suppliers. Stones should always be prewetted prior to application of D/2 and after dwelling for a few minutes followed by gentle scrubbing, should be flushed from the stone.

represent very significant historic fabric that must be preserved and protected by the caregivers.

Recommendations

- The caregivers must require that all work performed in the cemetery on monuments or the wall be conducted or overseen by a trained conservator who subscribes to the Guidelines for Practice and Code of Ethics of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).
- All of the monuments evidence biological growth and we recommend treatment using D/2 Biological Solution.
- Several of the stones require pre-existing cracks to be repaired using a tinted dispersed hydrated lime injected into the cracks after manual removal of the Portland cement.
- Several other stones will require more extensive treatment, including blind pin repairs and infill with a suitable material, such as St. Astier or Jahn.
- The remains of the McLanahan stone, if possible, should be returned to Warner Hall cemetery and included in the perpetual care provisions of this cemetery.
- A trained conservator should reevaluate all of the stones every 5 years.
- Only D/2 should be used for cleaning lichen and other biologicals from the cemetery stones.
- None of the stones should be replaced. All

Priorities

The Warner Hall Cemetery presents unique problems, including a protective easement that establishes certain requirements on the owners; a history that has been very poorly documented; massive modifications that struck at the heart of the cemetery's historic integrity; and in the past, more focus on famous people than on appropriate preservation. If it were only possible to "turn back the clock" and begin preservation efforts afresh, so many actions could be done differently.

Let us be clear. No one is suggesting that as monuments weather and become difficult to read, graves must slip into obscurity. We have clearly indicated that small, flush-to-ground markers providing critical information are entirely acceptable. It is not, however, acceptable to discard or cover up historic fabric in an effort to make the cemetery "like-new." Nevertheless, for years, caregivers have sought to create what they thought the cemetery of their descendants should look like – with little or no effort to conduct archaeological investigations or proceed with caution. Walls were rebuilt, obliterating past evidence. A broken stone was replaced with a modern outrageous and shocking substitute. Tombs, rather than being documented and repaired, were simply obliterated and replaced with vaults that have no foundation in reality. All this time, the public has been asked to accept what they see at the cemetery at face value.

It becomes essential that future preservation actions at the cemetery be of the highest caliber. For example, it is imperative that there be no future replacement of monuments or "restoration" efforts. The caregivers must come to understand that restoration destroys historic integrity and can ultimately result in a property being found to no longer be worthy of National Register status. Very little of the original historic

fabric remains, so it become critical that the caregivers understand their responsibility to future generations.

The most important aspect of this work is that the current caregivers, in particular the National Society for the Washington Family Descendants, are prepared to ensure that future activities at the cemetery do not go down the same roads and cause additional damage. The request that this assessment take place indicates, we believe, that the organization is committed to long-term preservation, not short-term restoration.

Recommended Priorities

Our assessment questionnaire asked what the National Society for the Washington Family Descendants thought were the three most significant preservation concerns. They responded: prevent deterioration of stones, prevent deterioration of wall, and address any settling of stones.

All stones wear and erode. Brick walls gradually deteriorate or lean. Little can be done about these natural tendencies. What can be done is to ensure that only safe and appropriate cleaning is conducted; that all repairs are appropriate and conducted by a trained individual; and that efforts are taken to ensure that other aspects of care do not contribute to the deterioration of the stones.

We believe the larger issue involving the inadequate past maintenance program at the cemetery must be resolved.

We recognize that it can be difficult to maintain focus and with this in mind, Table 4 lists the recommendations offered throughout this assessment, classifying them as *a first priority*, a

second priority, or a third priority.

First priorities are those we recommend undertaking during the coming fiscal or calendar year (2019) or even sooner. Some of these are organizational or administrative rules, policies, or procedures that can be quickly resolved and will help ensure future actions are guided by sound considerations. Many of these require little or no funding, but do demand a philosophical change in how the cemetery is viewed. They must be enacted as a foundation upon which other changes are constructed. We strongly believe that most cemetery projects fail through inadequate or inappropriate planning – thus, we recommend in the strongest possible terms that the Association engage in the necessary planning to help ensure success.

Second priorities are those that should be budgeted for over the next 2 to 3 years (2020-2021). They represent urgent issues that, if ignored, will result in both significant and noticeable deterioration of the cemetery as a component of the National Register property.

Third priorities are those that may be postponed for several additional years (2022-2023), or alternatively, may require 3 to 5 years to see fruition. Some actions are also less significant undertakings that require other stages to be in place in order to make them feasible or likely to be successful. Although they are given this lower priority, they should not be dismissed as trivial or unimportant.

Within these three categories, the individual items are not ranked, as all are essentially equal in importance.

It is likely that some of these recommendations will not be achievable in the five years allotted for this plan. That does not mean that the issues will no longer be of consequence or will not still be critical for the survival of the cemetery. What it does mean is that after 5 years we recommend sitting down and re-evaluating what has been achieved, what still needs to be done, and

determine how to move forward. This fifth-year reevaluation coincides with our recommendation that the condition of the stones be examined again that year.

Table 4.
Prioritization of Recommendations

Priority	Action
1st Priority	<p>1.01 A meeting of the property owners and other stakeholders should be devoted to a careful review of the Secretary of Interior Standards. The caregivers should focus on a fuller understanding of how daily operations affect the long-term preservation of the cemetery, making necessary adjustments to current policies and procedures. At that meeting, this assessment could be further explored.</p> <p>1.02 There is insufficient historic understanding of the cemetery. Historic research should focus on the development of the cemetery and the documentation of various activities.</p> <p>1.03 The current access point should have a mechanism to control pedestrian access and eliminate inappropriate vehicular access (including motorcycles, dirt bikes, and vehicles). Thus, if a gate is to continue to be used (and we recommend that it be maintained), it must be locked. Pedestrian access such as bollards can be removable and positioned to function as both a gate and to allow pedestrian access.</p> <p>1.04 Regulatory signage must be erected, both at the easement entrance and at the cemetery. Suggested verbiage is provided by this assessment. This may be combined with identification signage, which is also needed.</p> <p>1.05 The brick wall must be considered as part of the historic fabric at this point. This means that all repairs must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. This includes the use of matching replacement bricks where necessary, mortar must match existing material in color and texture, and must be softer than the brick.</p> <p>1.06 Should any wall work require below grade excavation, it is essential to first conduct an archaeological examination to determine if any information concerning the original wall can still be ascertained.</p> <p>1.07 The introduction of new ledgers must be very carefully monitored and limited. New monuments should be allowed only when the historic monument is no longer legible. In such cases, the original monument must remain and a new marker with the precise language of the original marker erected as a flush-to-ground lawn marker.</p> <p>1.08 None of the stones should be replaced. All represent very significant historic fabric that must be preserved and protected by the caregivers.</p> <p>1.09 Similarly, additional commemorative markers must never be installed on historic fabric, but should only be allowed as flush to ground markers or placed outside the cemetery brick wall.</p> <p>1.10 We recommend the line used in trimmers at the cemetery be no greater than 0.065-inch.</p> <p>1.11 The two trees to the west of the cemetery should be removed by a certified arborist capable of ensuring no damage is done to the cemetery wall or the McLanahan grave. All debris should be removed from the easement. No mechanized equipment should be used.</p> <p>1.12 The resulting stumps should not be ground, but may be drilled for the addition of a brush herbicide to prevent suckers. The brush around the McLanahan stone should be carefully removed by hand and the area maintained in the same manner as the rest of the easement.</p>

PRIORITIES

Table 4, cont.
Prioritization of Recommendations, continued

Priority	Action
1st Priority, continued	1.13 We do not recommend any “beautification” efforts or plantings around or in the cemetery. Such plantings would be historically inappropriate and would further increase maintenance costs with no clear benefit.
	1.14 The caregivers must require that all work performed in the cemetery on monuments or the wall be conducted or overseen by a trained conservator who subscribes to the Guidelines for Practice and Code of Ethics of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).
	1.15 None of the stones should be replaced. All represent very significant historic fabric that must be preserved and protected by the caregivers.

Table 4, cont.
Prioritization of Recommendations, continued

Priority	Action
2nd Priority	<p>2.01 All future modifications at Warner Hall Cemetery should be evaluated for their impact on universal access. Although universal access is not a legal requirement, it should be a goal whenever possible.</p> <p>2.02 The stakeholders (the National Society of Washington Family Descendants and Preservation Virginia) should ensure that they visit – and document in writing – the cemetery on minimally a yearly basis.</p> <p>2.03 The cemetery owners and stakeholders should begin using a form to identify and record evidence of vandalism.</p> <p>2.04 Caregivers should anticipate that in the future access, easement, and the cemetery might have fire ants. We recommend the control of these pests using a hydramethylnon bait twice a year.</p> <p>2.05 The single tree to the east of the cemetery does not pose as great a threat to the cemetery, but we recommend its removal. If it is to be left, we recommend that an ISA Certified Arborist inspect it yearly.</p> <p>2.06 If new trees are to be planted in the easement area, they should be carefully identified to be historically appropriate and to avoid significant issues such as surface roots, excessive litter, or weak structure.</p> <p>2.07 All replacement trees or new plantings should be at least 1-inch caliper and meet the minimum requirements of the American Nursery and Landscape Association's American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2004). All nursery stock should be carefully inspected prior to acceptance and planting.</p> <p>2.08 All new plantings should have water bags and rigid tree guards installed.</p> <p>2.09 All of the monuments evidence biological growth and we recommend treatment using D/2 Biological Solution. Only D/2 should be used on the monuments and wall.</p> <p>2.10 Several of the stones require pre-existing cracks to be repaired using a tinted dispersed hydrated lime injected into the cracks after manual removal of the Portland cement.</p> <p>2.11 Several other stones will require more extensive treatment, including blind pin repairs and infill with a suitable material, such as St. Astier or Jahn.</p> <p>2.12 The remains of the McLanahan stone, if possible, should be returned to Warner Hall cemetery and included in the perpetual care provisions of this cemetery.</p>

PRIORITIES

Table 4, cont.
Prioritization of Recommendations, continued

Priority	Action
3rd Priority	<p>3.01 The cemetery should prepare a disaster plan to cover events such as flooding, tornadoes, windstorms, and similar events.</p> <p>3.02 While soil test results suggest that supplemental potassium (K), boron (B), and copper (Cu) might be beneficial, the addition of these fertilizers is really only necessary if the caregivers are interested in converting the current field grass to a uniform turf. Where possible, organic fertilizers should be used since they have lower salt content than inorganic fertilizers and will less seriously affect the monuments.</p> <p>3.03 All of the stones should be reevaluated by a trained conservator every 5 years.</p>

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Cemetery Preservation Plans

Historical Research

**Identification of Grave Locations
and Mapping**

Condition Assessments

Treatment of Stone and Ironwork



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